

THE
GENEROUS BRITON;
OR, THE
AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS
OF
William Goldsmith, Esq;

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot,
The pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
To breathe th' inspiring spirit, to implant
The gen'rous purpose in the glowing breast.

THOMPSON.

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M DCC XCII.



TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOHN, Lord Viscount LIGONIER,

Field Marshal and Commander in Chief
of his Majesty's Forces, one of his
Majesty's most honourable Privy Coun-
cil, Knight of the most honourable
Order of the Bath, F. R. S. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

WHATEVER seeming impropriety
there may appear, in dedicating a
tale of private instruction to a Nobleman,
distinguished so greatly, so endeared to his
country, by a long life of military virtue;
the hero of Dettingen, Fontenoy, and La
Feldt; the companion of the immortal
Marlborough, and of that Saviour of his

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country his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland; and whose fame will be co-eval with history itself: yet, my Lord, those exalted, those amiable propensities of heart, which you ever displayed, and which have conciliated the affection and raised the admiration of all mankind, sufficiently apologize for this address.

You have conquered our enemies, my Lord, and you have subdued our hearts. The acts of benevolence you are daily, nay hourly employed in, the munificence with which you promote public charities, and the tender benignity with which you bend to the relief of private sufferings and distress, have added to that veneration, excited by your noble achievements, the esteem and love of all good men.

'Twas, therefore, my Lord, that the editor of the following pages, conscious that his labours were calculated to serve the cause of piety, and virtue, could think of no patron, whose name would appear with such justice before it, or who, with a candour and generosity only allied to the noblest minds, would make the proper and necessary allowances for any defects in his manner of executing his work.

My

DEDICATION. v

My Lord, he humbly beseeches your Lordship to accept of this testimony of his profound duty and respect; whilst he joins the whole kingdom, in fervent wishes and prayers, that your Lordship's valuable life may be preserved yet many years, to the delight and benefit of your Lordship's family; and of your friends, who must be as numerous as the individuals that inhabit these flourishing nations. He begs leave to subscribe himself,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most dutiful,

most obedient, and

most humble Servant,

May 15, 1765.

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The Editor

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THE
P R E F A C E

THE following pages were written by a friend to the family they commemorate, chiefly for the use of their youthful progeny, to impress upon their minds a proper sense of duty and gratitude to their Creator, and a veneration and love of their parents and friends, the illustrious founders of their fortune. By these descendants of our hero, they were, after many applications put into my hands for the benefit of the public; and as I was convinced of the perusal would produce the most salutary effects to the rising generation, I gladly undertook the task of an editor.

I have taken very few liberties with the original MS. which appeared to be the work of a master: None, indeed, but what the delicacy of the parties concerned were the occasion of. To this it is owing that the transactions it records (the last of which happened near half a century since) are

places. It was certainly expedient, whilst I was endeavouring to benefit the world, by this publication, to screen the family from being objects of universal curiosity, and to elude the prying eye of application: However, to many persons, and some of the most exalted character, who have had connexion with the family, there will be nothing new in these memoirs. With one of them I had the honour to serve in the army, in a distant part of the world, who was a gentleman of good sense and virtue: by his favour I was introduced to the representative of the family, now seated in the mansion of his fathers, and blessed with a numerous offspring.

There never occurred to me a character fraught with such real piety, such a glowing warmth of benevolence, as the Generous Briton, who, tho' not a perfect being, was as much removed from the follies and vices that deform mankind, as human nature can be supposed to be. Let him, let his accomplished son, his illustrious friends, let them all inspire my readers with a noble emulation to become, like them, the patrons of the distressed, and pour the balm of comfort into the afflicted soul.

perusers of these sheets copy the excellencies of Miss Thomas and Mrs. Lloyd, and avoid the foibles that distinguish some other of our female characters, which indulged, frequently lead to crimes that produce, necessarily almost, scenes of distraction and unavoidable unhappiness. — Here, let the petulant snarler at the follies and miseries of human life, who with supercilious pride rails at the mode and manner of his existence, behold to what a god-like height of virtue he may soar, and to what noble and exalted purposes he may convert the few years allowed to this state of probation. If, as an elegant writer, and a good judge of mankind, observes, “ There is a certain degree
“ both of temptation and distress, that puts
“ a man in a situation to which the fortitude of human nature is but seldom equal,” how must we applaud the man whose fortitude was proof against every temptation and every misfortune, who determined to act as became him, as became a rational and accountable creature, whatever might betide him in this frail and uncertain state?

The stile and disposition of this narrative may not, perhaps, be exceptionable, yet I apprehend it was wrote under the cool correction of judgment, and agreeably to
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the rules of just criticism; but in these matters I shall not attempt to prejudicate leaving it with the reader to applaud or censure, according to his own judgment.— If the plot, sentiments, moral, and catastrophe, do not meet with approbation, I shall esteem it a proof that somewhat beyond probability, above reason, and direfully fatal, must be necessary to excite public attention; somewhat, in short, that never happened in life, and is only the production of a wild, romantic, creative fancy.

After recommending the work, particularly to the blooming youth of this kingdom, as a monitor and mirror, sincerely wishing it may produce the same effects on them, it has on those for whose use it was intended, I can think of nothing more, necessary to be said by

The EDITOR.

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C O N T E N T S
OF THE
FIRST VOLUME.

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THE
GENEROUS BRITON.

CHAP. I.

A providential Discovery, and the Consequences thereof.---Account of a Country Gentleman and his Family.

THE sun had scarce appeared above the horizon, one fine morning in the month of August, when Mr Goldsmith, a gentleman of a considerable estate in Carmarthenshire, (whose lands washed by the sea, were part of those which form the extensive bay on which the town of Kidwelly stands) full of health and spirits, maintained by temperance and manly exercise, shaking off the chains of sleep, issued out with a view of taking the air, which was remarkably fresh and clear

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after being agitated the foregoing night, by as severe a storm as he had for many years remembered. The honest Briton beheld the waves rolling, with abating yet still dreadful fury, and foaming towards the shore: At a distance, in the offing, he perceived several small vessels, some of which were dismasted, and tumbling about in an alarming manner, without the power of governing or directing their motions, being left to their jaded crews, who had many hours been struggling to preserve their lives amidst the gloom of so horrid a night,

Goldsmith's generous bosom felt sensibly for the hardships his fellow-creatures were exposed to; he wished it was in his power to get them safe to shore, and to see them at his hospitable board, refreshing themselves after their fatigues; but his wishes were unavailing; for the wind, tho' not now boisterous, blowing from the eastward of the North, of course they were driving apace from the land. He sighed, and as he traversed the strand, made many reflections upon the miseries human creatures are incident to, from their adventurous pursuits of riches on the flattering ocean; but adored the goodness of that Being, whose eye is so mercifully employed in

in surveying the actions of his creatures, and who protects them under the greatest trials and dangers, and to whom, in an extempore ejaculation he recommended them. As he thus musingly walked towards a kind of little peninsula, which terminated his grounds, he thought he perceived somewhat like a bundle, at a considerable distance, and, mending his pace, discovered part of the ruins of a boat, which he made no doubt, in attempting the shore had been beat to pieces on the sands. A man of so much sensibility as he was endowed with, could not refrain from tears, at this melancholy spectacle, when the idea of the unhappy wretches perishing, in the endeavour to save their lives, was connected therewith: But other, and still more touching objects, now presented themselves; what he had mistaken for a large bundle, appeared to be the corpse of a woman, of no mean aspect or attire: Her dress bespoke her of a condition above the vulgar, and the pallid cheek, and half-closed eyes, still wore the semblance of harmony and beauty. Her hands and arms had suffered greatly, and were torn and bruised in several places; beside her lay, seemingly in the agonies of death, a lovely infant who appeared to be near two

years old, and whose little arms were fast locked round one of the lady's. Struck to the heart at this sight, Goldsmith snatched up the infant, and ran with eager steps to his house, which stood about a quarter of a mile distant from the spot, and ordering his house-keeper to use all means that possibly she could, to restore it to warmth and life, hastened again to the strand with his servants, and conveyed the body of the unhappy mother also to the same place. Amongst a number of useful attainments, this gentleman had acquired a considerable knowledge in physic and surgery, by which he had done great service in his neighbourhood, and, by using the proper means, the infant soon came to itself, opened its eyes and looked around him, with a smiling cherub's face, that was wonderfully engaging to the by-standers; but the lady was gone for ever; no methods could light up those charms, which apparently had once reigned in her face.

Mr Goldsmith, more pleased, however, with the prize he had obtained, than if it had been an increase of fortune, was delighted to behold the little innocent, who eat the food provided for him, with remarkable avidity, and, when wrapt in dry cloaths, fell into a profound sleep.

As

As it was plain from the habit of the lady as well as that of her infant, as before observed, that they were of no ordinary rank, Goldsmith interred her with respectful decency, and professed, as he had no children of his own, he would, according to the Roman custom, adopt the young foundling, and therefore not only gave him his name, but prepared every thing for his nursing and bringing up, in that character. Indeed, the little Billy, as we may now call him, seemed to merit a particular consideration; his soft features, the harmony of his person, the ten thousand engaging prettinesses that discovered themselves, already, in his infant actions; the notice he took of every body, and the imitative sounds he uttered, made him a most pleasing companion for the family; and Mrs Julian, the house-keeper, seconded her master's fondness of him, and became an excellent nurse, in a very short time.

Mr Goldsmith was descended of a good family in the West of England, of which part of the island his father had been a native. The estate on which he now resided, which brought in near 400l. per annum, came by his mother, who was a Carmarthenshire lady. His father, after losing the greatest part of his own fortune in the

South-sea bubble, had retired to it, with his consort and son, and there both ended their days. The son was about the time of this adventure, in his 45th year. He had received a good education, which he had improved by books and conversation, and the rectitude of his mind, and the benevolence of his heart, and actions, had long attracted the esteem and veneration of all his neighbours. The death of a lady who had engaged the affections of his youth, produced a resolution, in which he had invariably persisted for a number of years, of never altering his condition; and as he was thus unincumbered with the care of providing for a family, he contented himself with living upon his little fortune, which, having no taste for expensive pleasures, and passing his days in philosophic retirement, was sufficient for all his occasions: Nay, he was so great an œconomist, as to afford himself many opportunities of indulging the generosity of his heart; few of the necessitous families within the compass of his knowledge, but had found relief in their necessities from his liberal hand.

His family consisted of his house-keeper, a maid, and two men-servants. The house-keeper was a distant relation, and in the

50th year of her age. Mrs Julian, was a widow, after having suffered every thing that could render life disagreeable and painful, from thirty years cohabitation with a bad husband, and had complied with the invitation of Mr Goldsmith, to retire to the management of his family, where she might obliterate the memory of her misfortunes. She was a woman of a decent appearance, much piety, and unblemished integrity, which had given her a great ascendant in her master's esteem. By the assistance of these servants, he cultivated a considerable part of his estate himself, and, by his success in farming and agriculture, had increased his means of doing good.

He had no relations in the principality, but what were maternal, consisting of a first cousin, Mrs Jones, the wife of a merchant at Carmarthen, and her two sons, and a daughter, the latter an infant; her husband was in affluent circumstances, and Mr Goldsmith and their family had always lived upon good terms together; he considered their children as his heirs, and they had endeavoured by every method to engage his affection, and to procure his favour.

C H A P. II.

*Description of Mr Goldsmith's House, &c.
---His Neighbours characterised---Their
first visit to the Foundling.*

IF Mr Goldsmith's villa was not magnificent, it was large and useful. It was an antique structure, which stile of building he had not deviated from, in the alterations and additions he had lately made. The moss that grew on the roof, and the ivy that clinged to the walls, and crawled over the whole fabric, he esteemed more than the most splendid ornaments. The house was spacious, and contained a great number of irregular, but roomy apartments, the furniture of which, in general, was of much the same date as the building. A double row of fine Elms formed an avenue in front, and a spacious garden and orchard, extended a long way behind the edifice, from which, as they lay high, the eye was delighted with a most charming and extensive prospect of the neighbouring country; the town of Kidwelly, the fine bay of Carmarthen, and more distantly of Bristol channel, with numerous vessels ploughing

ploughing the waves. At the extremity of the orchard, were the verdent meadows where his numerous herds grazed, and his bleating flocks cropped the delicious herbage. On each side, but at some distance, from the house were his barns, stables, granaries, and stalls for his cattle; the whole looking, afar off, like a considerable village.

Mr. Goldsmith, in what he used to stile his Museum, had selected a library, if it may without offence to book-worms, be so called, which if it did not consist of a great number of books, was stored with, the most approved in every art and science. The globes, a theodolite, with a set of the most useful mathematical instruments; an harpsichord, violin, German flute, and French horn, with a collection of the best music, where the other stores of this apartment, which overlooked the garden, and was one of the most pleasant in the house. Here he spent many of his choicest hours, here he conversed with the illustrious dead, and here the charms of science and the muses tuned his mind to that sympathetic softness which was so conspicuous in his composition.

Two gentlemen, his near neighbours, shared his friendship and his conversation;
one

one of them, the Rev. Mr Jenkins, the parson of the parish; the other, Squire Lloyd, the Lord of the manor. The parson had been seated there for some years, had a small patrimony of his own, and his living brought him in about 70l. per ann. He was middle aged, had seen the world (having been formerly chaplain to a factory in Spain) and abounded in good-will and loving kindness to all mankind. His notions of religion were not confined to any sect or party; he believed the glad tidings of salvation were brought to all rational beings, and deemed that man the best christian who obeyed the moral precepts of the gospel, without distracting himself and bewildering others about the ceremonies and mysteries therein contained, which he thought christians should be left at their liberty to receive or reject, as the evidence for them or against them appeared, upon serious inquiry, to preponderate. Tho' an excellent scholar, he was no pedant, and in his sermons and conversation took particular care never to rise above the level of his audience, or his companions. He was *an Israelite indeed*, in whom no guile was to be found; and as he was perfectly free from the least appearance of evil himself, he was with great difficulty brought

to think ill of his neighbour. He was married, but had no children, to his abundant satisfaction; for Madam Jenkins, he had long found, was not the most desirable consort. Alas! his inexperience in the sex, had yoked him to an help-mate, whose severity of face, external sanctity, and prudish particularity were her only recommendations.

Deceived by her formality, he became her spouse; but soon discovered that he had a legion of dæmons to deal with. Imprimis, more prittle than, perhaps, ever existed in all her sex together, built upon a long genealogy of ap-Rice's and ap-Henry's, which she had at her fingers ends, and which would not permit him to keep company with any one of an inferior stamp. Secondly, such an over-weaning conceit of her own understanding and person, that she looked down even on the lady of the manor with contempt and disdain. Thirdly, a most violent spirit of opposition, which nothing could abate, tho' in every contest with her husband or her neighbours, she was perpetually in the wrong. Fourthly, so much superstition and enthusiasm in religious matters, that she rivalled every devotee whose whims have been recorded in story. The dogmas of Calvin were

were all entertained in her shallow head; she firmly believed the doctrine of original sin, election, and reprobation, and had extended the latter so far, as to pronounce the whole parish in a damnable state, but herself; nay, her unhappy husband was of the number of the children of perdition. In vain he had endeavoured to reason with her; human reason was not to be depended upon, and she had drawn in her mind so gloomy, so terrible a picture of the divine Being, as amounted to little less than blasphemy. Haply Mr Jenkins had so preached, and so lived, that his flock were well armed against her delusions, and she found herself almost single in her sentiments; a most wretched, ill-tempered, unamiable creature, and willing at every turn to play the very devil for God's sake, if we may so express ourselves.

Squire Lloyd was a young gentleman of much honour and good nature; but as his education had not been greatly attended to, he had lived, for some years, a life of rural dissipation, hunting, fishing, and shooting being his chief employments; in short, he was the perfect Will Wimble of the county: But his marriage with a young lady of sense and virtue, and his acquaintance with Mr Goldsmith and Mr Jenkins, had

had now given another bias to his mind. He grew fond of books and improving conversation, and lamented the little care his parents had taken to cultivate his understanding. He, who had been the chief of the sports in the whole vicinity, was now, so amiable and gentle was his disposition, content to become the pupil of his friends, and as his natural capacity was very extraordinary, had made a considerable progress in useful knowledge. His estate was about 800*l.* per annum, upon which he lived in a generous and hospitable manner. His lady had nothing very shining in her person; but her breast was the seat of every noble and exalted virtue. She was tender and compassionate, her eyes never turned away from, her ears were never shut to, the distresses of others, and her hand was always open to their relief. Her mind was stored with every grace, her soul appeared exalted above every thing low and trivial; she was at once a good christian, an excellent and indulgent wife, a valuable friend, and a kind mistress. Though she soon perceived the defects of her husband, as they proceeded only from ignorance, and she found he had a valuable heart, and an amiable temper, she had too much delicacy to affect any superiority. She be-

haved to him with a respect and esteem flowing from affection, and by very soft and gentle allurements had brought him off his former way of life; by which she had secured happiness to both, as far as it can be enjoyed by mortals: in a word, the whole principality might have been explored, without discovering so harmonious, so affectionate, or so truly amiable a couple.

As soon as the adventure of the Foundling was known to Mr Goldsmith's friends, they all came to the house to see the little innocent. Mr Jenkins and the Squire endeavoured to fortify him in the resolution he had taken to rear it up, as his own; nor did the former forget to discant upon the wonderful events that chequer human life; whereby some are raised from obscurity to riches and splendour, and others cast down to the lowest abyss of misery: "This infant, this lovely infant, continued the clergyman, seems to have been born the favourite of fortune; but by this sad accident, is now deprived of one, if not both its parents; and who they were, perhaps, will never be discovered. Ah! my friend Goldsmith, look upon the child as a gift from Heaven: it may one day reward you, by the progress it may make in virtue, by its piety, by its extensive knowledge

ledge, and the use he will be of to his fellow-creatures. May the supreme Being (taking the little creature in his arms and kissing him) bestow every blessing upon thee, thou pretty unfortunate! --May we live to see thee grow in grace and the knowledge of thy Creator; be an honour to his name, and a comfort to thy patron and his friends! Poor baby! (wiping his eyes) what fond views and schemes of happiness had thy parents formed for thee! What pangs must the survivor feel, if either escaped death in the cruel storm; or if both exist, how supremely wretched must they be! I survey thee as a precious boon from Heaven, which, by the miraculous preservation, seems to intend thee for more important ends and pursuits than our narrow views can penetrate! ---Yes, we will all assist in the generous task! ---I will be thy preceptor---the Squire shall learn thee thy exercises---his lady shall superintend thy infant years, with the good Mrs Julian! --See, how the dear creature smiles! ---What an amiable countenance! ---what a placid sweetness! Happy infant! thou hast fallen into merciful hands! ---thy patron is able to fashion thee by inculcating every good, every noble sentiment;

to make thee what a rational creature should be."

The Squire and his lady bestowed an infinite number of carresses upon the pretty fellow; and the latter begged the favour she might be indulged in completing his present habit. But Mrs Jenkins, with her usual reserve, looked at the infant with silent disgust--hinted, that the parents must have been guilty of some great crimes;--that it was plain the child was an outcast from God; and that it was next to impiety to give it harbour or succour. As the company had been long used to her strange ideas and odious jargon, what she said was received with smiles of contempt: but Mr Jenkins read her a smart lecture upon arrogating to herself the liberty of judging so severely, and dealing about so impiously the arcana of Omnipotence. To this she made no reply, but tossing up her head quitted the company, full of spleen, ill-nature, and resentment.

C H A P. III.

Character of Mrs Jones and her Family.--

Mrs Jenkins's visit, and its consequences.

WHATEVER little effect Mrs Jenkins's insinuations had at Mr Goldsmith's, she soon found out a proper subject to work upon, in Mrs Jones, to whom she very officiously, soon after paid a visit at Carmarthen.

Mrs Jones was one of those ladies, who, under a spacious appearance of freedom and generosity, veil as much pride and avarice, as perhaps ever usurped the dominion of a female breast. All her views were directed to the aggrandisement of her family; her children already, in her fond imagination, were possessed of immense fortunes, and lording it over their neighbours; and the opulence of her husband, who had been very successful in business, together with the moral certainty of her cousin Goldsmith's estate coming to her, contributed not a little to strengthen her in these visions of worldly happiness. Mean time she neglected the means to make her children deserving of their good fortune.

Tommy, the eldest, was of too delicate a constitution to be trusted from his mamma's sight, and to undergo the drudgery of school discipline; so that his education had been confined to dancing, and reading plays and romances to his mamma, and, when unbending from these studies, he was the tormenter of all the servants in the house, and at twelve years of age, though adored by his short-sighted parents, he was hated and dreaded by every person who had any connection with them. Billy, the youngest, about ten years of age, began already to indicate a fertile genius. He was not his mamma's favourite, and consequently was in no great danger of being ruined; he was suffered to carry his own satchel to school, to learn latin, and to be whipped, ferulaed, and caned, when he deserved it, without remonstrance; by which kind of discipline (which by the bye he seldom deserved, but for unlucky tricks, being very fond of his book) he became hardy, and had none of the idle complaints so common in his brother's mouth. One ill consequence of this different treatment was, that it produced a kind of antipathy between the two brothers: Tom treated Billy with supercilious contempt, as a being below his notice; whilst Billy looked upon

upon Tom as a finical puppy, a dunce, and an ignoramus, and very seldom could be prevailed upon to play with, or keep him company. Billy's turn of mind had greatly ingratiated him with Mr Goldsmith, who took little notice of Tom, and had freely censured Mrs Jones's manner of bringing him up; but what he said had but little effect; she looked upon him as an old bachelor who had no notion of the manner of children should be treated in; and as her darling was sure of a considerable fortune from his father, she was not much concerned at the preference he gave to Billy, nor with the reflection that he would probably become his heir. She had, indeed, made an essay or two, to induce him to take the lad entirely under his own care; but Mr Goldsmith had refused the office, contenting himself with giving instructions to his schoolmaster, and supplying him with books and other requisites for his studies. As to miss Lucy, she was scarce two years old; but her pretty amiable countenance promised, one day, to beam forth resplendent graces. Mr Jones himself with a quiet easy man, much turmoiling was the affairs of the world; traffic and the improvement of his fortune ingrossed his whole time; he could think or talk

talk of nothing else, and left the affairs of the family, and the education of his offspring, entirely to his wife, whose will he implicitly obeyed, and whose every word was revered by him as oracular.

Mrs Jones's temper, tho', in the main, similar to that of Mrs Jenkins, was not so troublesome to those connected with her; she could dissemble and accommodate herself to the humours of others; whereas the latter was superior to any hypocrisy, which, though no very eligible quality, would however have made her a more tolerable companion than she was. Mrs Jones had long humoured her foible, thinking her a necessary intelligencer for what passed in the family of her cousin, as Mrs Julian was too upright to make her master's affairs the subject of her discourse: beside, as persons of mean abilities and bad tempers, generally hate those of a more exalted way of thinking, she never liked Mrs Lloyd, whose sentiments and manners reproached her own so severely, and therefore in order to pique her, shewed more than ordinary consideration, for Mrs Jenkins, whom she knew she despised.

These two worthy ladies met: Mrs Jenkins, after some indifferent chat asked Mrs Jones if she had heard of Mr Goldsmith's bringing

bringing his child home. "His child, Madam!" she returned, "what can you mean? I know my cousin has no child to bring home." "Well be that as it may," replied the other "a child he has brought home, and intends to breed him up as his own. Indeed he tells a fine story of the child's being cast on shore upon his grounds, in a late storm, and my husband and Squire Lloyd, and his good natured lady, believe him; but I protest I rather think it the produce of some scandalous amour. Lack-a-day, madam, its a wonder you have not heard of it!---What, have you never been consulted about the little boy, who no doubt, is to be bred up a philosopher? never your opinion been asked what habit master shall wear? how he is to be reared up?---No, I perceive by your surprise you are not of the cabinet counsel. Well, he has given him his own name---and I suppose intends to make him his heir---your family will be little the better for him, I suppose---the little brat, if he lives, will take all---some low-life wanton baggage, I guess, has been profuse of her favours, and a worthy family will suffer for it. But don't fear, God will never prosper such deeds--*Bastard slips can never take deep root.*"

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Here she paused, but she might have continued her harangue some minutes longer ; for what she had said had such an effect upon her companion as to rob her of utterance, and call up such a variety of passions as were near choaking her. She stared---her eyes rolled---her bosom swelled---she trembled from head to foot---a hundred various ideas filled her mind ; she could not suddenly believe so ill of a man of Mr Goldsmith's character, and yet the bold suggestion of Mrs Jenkins staggered her much ; but to hear the child was to be brought up as his own ; was to be his heir, robbed her of all patience, and prepared her to give credit to all Mrs Jenkins's insinuations. Here she was touched to the quick, her pride and self-interestedness were at once alarmed ; but, though she began to set down every thing this malignant devotee said as matter of fact, how could she help herself?---Mr Goldsmith was his own master, and master of his fortune, to the reversion of which she or her family could have no claim, and he might devise it to another : He was under no manner of obligation to her, or her family ; on the contrary, she was under many to him. Beside, his character, his behaviour awed her, and she determined, before she spoke

to pretend an indifference at what she heard ; but at the same time to search to the very bottom of the affair, for which purpose she would the next day make her cousin a visit, in company with Mrs Jenkins. “ Well (at length she answered) you have told me news, indeed, madam ; but I know Mr Goldsmith too well to think the child his ; no, no, madam, I must think he never had any commerce with our sex ; but however, please God, to-morrow, I will go and see the young bantling, and hope you will pass the night with us, and accompany me there ; I long to know more of this matter.” Mrs Jenkins assenting, staid at Carmarthen till the next day, when they both set out for Mr Goldsmith’s ; but the lady recollecting what she had said, and fearful Mrs Jones would mention it, enjoined her to secrecy, and declined going with her upon her visit ; whereupon they parted at her own door, after the usual compliments.

C H A P. IV.

*Mrs. Jones's Behaviour at Mr Goldsmith's,
and other Matters.*

THE first person that presented to Mrs Jones at Mr Goldsmith's, was Mrs Julian, with the child in her arms. She was walking and prattling to little Billy, with an air of extreme fondness, in the avenue before the house, and did not perceive Mrs Jones's approach. That lady cried out as soon as she was near enough, "Bless me! Mrs Julian, what have you got a nursery?" Mrs Julian turned round and answered, "Yes, madam: I am glad you are come to partake of our satisfaction; you will be charmed with the engaging baby, as every one is that has seen him. Poor dear creature," she continued, pressing him to her bosom, "we have recovered him to life, and he seems, in his little way, to be making us every grateful return. See, madam, what an engaging smile! what an amiable countenance! I think he is not unlike master Billy, your youngest son, nay that he favours miss Lucy; and so my master has said, madam, I assure

I assure you." Here little Billy held his hands out to Mrs Jones, with an action of innocent inclination to go to her, and as she came prepared to conceal the situation of her mind, she took him with the usual expressions of tenderness that are indiscriminately paid to all such little folks. She carried him into the parlour, to Mr Goldsmith, bestowing kisses upon him all the way, to the no small pleasure of Mrs Julian, who from the rectitude of her own sentiments, was easily deceived into a good opinion of others professions, and rejoiced to think the hapless innocent had made another friend. --- "Ha! cousin," said Mr Goldsmith, as soon as he set eyes upon her --- "you are turned nurse too, I see! Well, this dear child I believe will make every one love him---as I live he clasps you round the neck! how endearing and graceful are all his actions!" --- Mrs Jones topped her part upon this occasion, and put on a semblance, of so much tenderness to the child as quite deceived Mr Goldsmith, as it had before Mrs Julian, and they vied in return for such behaviour, to shew her even more respect than usual.

A woman of Mrs Jones's commodious principles, was at no pains to keep up appearances which she found so agreeable;

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though in her heart she entertained the utmost abhorrence of an infant, that she plainly perceived had gained her cousin's love in a degree that was to her surprising, and already she was meditating how to render its benefactor's designs in its favour abortive.

Mr Goldsmith, at her desire, told her the whole adventure of the providential escape from death, of the child, and painted the misfortunes it had been exposed to, and the loss of its mother, in such affecting traits that she either (from one of those sudden fits of compassion which the worst minds cannot help sometimes feeling) wept, or seemed to weep, and firmly believed every word her cousin told her, notwithstanding all Mrs Jenkins's late insinuations. Nay, she indulged some pleasure in that thought, as she imagined Mr Goldsmith's extreme fondness for the child, might wear off, in time, which it would scarce do, were he convinced it was his own. She therefore applauded his humanity, passed many encomiums, on Mrs Julian's goodness and the beauty of the infant, and ventured, in about an hour's time, to propose taking it with her to Carmarthen, as at her house they must be supposed better acquainted with the nursing and management

ment of children, and he would be a most agreeable companion for her Lucy, with whom he might be bred up. But Mr Goldsmith's answer to her proposal (which was couched in the most insinuating terms) soon convinced her the child was as dangerous a rival of her children as Mrs Jenkins had officiously represented him. "Cousin Jones." replied that gentleman, "I am obliged to you for your kind offer; but I choose to breed him up under my own eye, and I am sure Mrs Julian is a very good nurse. I have not been witness before to the charms of prattling innocence, and find so much pleasure in contemplating its opening perfections, that it constitutes, at present, one great happiness of my life. Indeed, indeed," continued he, and fondly kissing the child, which she still held upon her knee, "I cannot part with him; but my dear cousin, you shall be one of our directresses; your having been a fond and indulgent mother well qualifies you for that office, and between us all I hope the little fellow will be made some amends for the loss of his real parents; a loss however, that, alas! can, with all our tenderness never be thoroughly compensated!—poor dear creature—thou art gone to the world of spirits,—

ah! what agonies didst thou feel---how was thy bosom torn, as long as sense remained---whilst struggling with the cruel billows, and clasping this dear infant to thy breast! if now thy immortal part pervades the distance between those happy seats to which thou art removed, with complacent approbation wilt thou survey the cares we lavish upon thy tender, hapless orphan! May we, from our endeavours in his favour, secure the blessing of providence upon this household and all our friends who shall share with this kind, this humane, this benevolent task!"

The air of serious fervour these words were spoken with, and the experience she had of the temper of the speaker, still more fully convinced Mrs Jones of all she apprehended; at the same time that it filled her with a kind of awe and reverence, which little minds are often seized with, on the view of exalted qualities, in their superiors in understanding and goodness; though they may not have the sense or virtue to imitate them.

Resolved to pry as much as possible into the management of the family, she staid two days at her cousin's, and left them in a thorough persuasion that she was also become one of the infant's best friends, and Mr

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Goldsmith proposed her sending Lucy (and her nurse) over, for some days, as a kind of companion for his adopted son, which she with much readiness promised to comply with.

She departed, however, in fact, with a mind full of displeasure and anxiety, and already began to form schemes in her mind of rendering her cousin's intentions abortive; though perhaps she had not yet dared to think of the black designs she was capable of entertaining.

She called at Mrs Jenkins's before she left the neighbourhood, and found an opportunity, in the absence of her husband, to pour out all her complaints, not at all disguising the apprehensions which were now confirmed in her, that the Goldsmith estate would never come to the Jones's, unless some accident or some malady removed this troublesome infant out of the way, which she went so far, with her confident, as to wish, most unfeignedly, might be, and she impiously said, providentially, the case.

Arrived at her own residence, and now under no necessity of any concealments, her disposition shewed itself in the most disagreeable manner. She raved against her cousin to her husband, from morning to

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evening,

evening, she beat her poor son Billy at every turn, crying, "ay! see now what all your cousin's fine promises are come to--- here we have been breeding you according to his notions, and now you may go a begging, for what he cares---Lord deliver us from poor scholars, say I!" Poor little Lucy was snubbed, and every servant in the house experienced a double proportion of her ill temper. As to her favourite, she blessed God that his cousin had never liked him, otherwise he would have been at his Greek and Latin and such stuff, instead of learning the ways of the world, and the arts of getting money. Mr Jones seemed a little affected with what he heard, as he thought money was the *summum bonum* of life, and he had long reckoned upon the spoils of Goldsmith as a provision for his younger children.

C H A P. V.

The Foundling taken from his Protector.---

He is disposed of by Mrs Jones, after a long Consultation.

IN a few days after Mrs Jones's arrival at home, Lucy was brought over by her nurse to pay a visit to Billy, with a licence to protract it for five or six days, which appeared to Mr Goldsmith a fresh proof of the affection that lady had entertained for his adopted son, and highly pleased him and Mrs Julian.

There appeared such a similarity of features in these two children, as was immediately noticed by all that beheld them, and Mr Goldsmith himself seemed struck with it, and tho' as little given to indulge chimerical ideas as any one, could not refrain, in the elation of his heart, some expressions that seemed to indicate his prospect of a future union between them; and Mr Jenkins, observing the inclination that, even in this infantile state, they seemed to shew for each other, lifting up his hands in his solemn manner, pronounced his belief that

that providence intended their future days should be passed together.

It indeed appeared wonderful to Mrs Lloyd and Mrs Julian, that each of the children seemed fond of parting with those toys they most prized to one another, and were not a moment easy unless their little arms incircled their necks, and the innocent lips were joined in imitative embraces. If one was removed from each other, the room echoed with screams and cries, and when at length they were separated, they both pined and Billy fell into such a dejection that Nurse and Lucy were sent for again in all haste, and when she arrived all was well.

But these matters, which were so delightfully contemplated by Mr Goldsmith and his friends, had no power to soften or amend Mrs Jones's ill-temper, and she even spoke with severity of her little daughter, for her innocent attachment to this rival of her family; though she did not betray this to any of Mr Goldsmith's family and friends, but outwardly approved and seemed pleased thereat, and consented with great seeming pleasure, to her daughter's staying at her cousins. Had she entertained any really generous sentiments, she must have been charmed as well as Goldsmith,

smith, at the prospect that her child might partake of his fortune in conjunction with the little foundling ; but, on the contrary, she never mentioned him without terms of contempt and reproach—beggar's brat!---chance child!---dirty bastard! and such other appellations, generally decorating her mouth whenever she mentioned him in her own family and to her particular friends.

Mean time, Mr Goldsmith, though he took such extreme tender care of the child, did not neglect what he thought, was in justice and humanity due to its parent or parents, if they were in being; for which purpose he published, in all the English, Scotch, and Irish papers, an advertisement, rehearsing the particulars of Billy's hard fortune, describing his person and dress, and that of the lady with whom he was found after the storm; which advertisement he concluded in these words:

“-----At the same time that Mr Goldsmith thinks it his duty to inform the parents or relations of the lovely boy, where they may see him; he hopes they will, if ever they claim him, indulge the said Mr Goldsmith in his fondness for him, and permit him still to consider him as his own, and a boon from heaven to soften his declining

clining days, as he has taken proper measures to secure his present and future subsistence and happiness, with equal tenderness as if he had really been his own child."

Lucy had now been three weeks at Mr Goldsmith's, and at length her mother came, with aparent regret, to take her home, having, as she pretended, several things to make for her, and that her father was uneasy to see her.

The same reluctance was shewn by the children to part as before, and without throwing them both into convulsions it was deemed impracticable. Mr Goldsmith and Billy's other friends were drawn in by Mrs Jones's fair behaviour, and apparent affection, hereupon, to let Billy and Lucy go together to Carmarthen, that lady promising to make no distinction between him and her own children, and to return with them both in two or three days at farthest.

But here again a new and not apprehended struggle was necessary; Billy and Lucy both took on heavily when they were going to be taken from their papa, (as they both had learned to call Mr Goldsmith) and Mrs Julian, so that he found it necessary to go part of the way with them, and

and to take the first opportunity to leave them, unnoticed, upon the road, whilst their attention was taken up with somewhat that diverted them; and thus he left his son with a full persuasion that he was safe in Mrs Jones's hands, who appeared so tenderly assiduous and watchful over him.

Women are, it must be acknowledged, quick and ready in any contrivances to bring about a favourite purpose, and when not actuated by virtuous and praise-worthy principles, are capable of going greater lengths in wickedness than the male part of the species, for which a certain polite moral writer gives a reason that is a compliment as well as a censure on the ladies, "That the best things when corrupted are the worst." Mrs Jones, however the favour shewn to the foundling rankled in her breast, perhaps had no sinister intent in carrying him to her house; but now, having him in her power, it, all at once, excited a resolution that he should never return, to give her more uneasiness, and disappoint her lucrative expectations. This thought no sooner struck her, than it took absolute possession of her brain, and already she looked forward and discovered every thing, falling out according to her wishes.

wishes. She was resolved not to trust even her husband with her plot, however, which was scarcely half formed, and for that purpose began to talk in a roundabout way to nurse, with an intent, to sound the disposition of a woman, of whom she had yet observed nothing that could induce her to believe she would be her accessory in any thing criminal. She began then, as the chaise, by her order, was gently driving on, to complain of her cousin for his partiality to the foundling, and of the detriment it would be to her and her children, adding, hang it! I am not against the child's being taken care of! but I can see no reason for all the fuss that is made about him, or that he should rob my children of what they have a natural right to ---I wish to God, nurse, I knew of any honest method of taking care of it, so that my cousin might never see it more?" ---Nurse stared at her mistress for some moments in a kind of amaze; but made no immediate reply, so that she had an opportunity to proceed still farther, and at length to declare openly her resolution to dispose of it in some secret place before she went home; ---"And, yet nurse, this will be difficult to do; for suppose I say we were attacked by gypsies and the child taken

ken by violence from us, it will appear very suspicious, unless Lucy is taken away too. ---Well---to get rid of one---I cannot say I should be sorry to part with both--- for you know we could place her somewhere where we could hear every now and then of her welfare---As to this brat---its no matter where he is, or who has him-----beggars brats are born to shift and struggle through the world."---Little did Mrs Jones imagine she was talking to a woman of worse principles than her own, and who was capable of answering her most sanguine expectations. Margaret M'Allister, though an Irish woman, was no friend to children. She was a compound of low hypocrisy and cunning, and had all the palaver of her country at her finger's ends. She had some years since come over to Chester with a crowd of Irish, to seek for harvest work, and her husband Larey M'Allister had finished his days in that neighbourhood for murder and robbery. In her after peregrinations she worked at charing-busines in several places, till chance brought her to the neighbourhood of Carmarthen, where she at length intermarried, a second time, with an industrious honest Welchman, named Hugh Griffiths, a labourer in that neighbourhood.

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Peggy, who could suit herself to all circumstances, had behaved so well for some time, as to be recommended to Mrs Jones as a nurse for Lucy, in which post she had now continued for a year and half, without discovering any of her old corrupt inclinations, for which she had neither necessity nor opportunity. But the bait thrown out by Mrs Jones exactly suited her temper, and without the least hesitation she cried out, "Mistress, why do you trouble yourself about the brat?-- by the great God, I would leave him upon this Common; somebody will take him up and carry him away, or he will soon squall himself to death, and there will be an end of the business---Give him to me; I will fling him out of the chaise, and leave him to God's mercy!"

Mrs Jones, though inly pleased that she had got so ready an assistant, shuddered at her wicked proposal---she had not yet arrived to such a pitch of inhumanity---she was only in the first stage of sin -- had not yet steeled her breast to the feelings of nature--- nor could countenance so diabolical a proposal. But she now thought she had gone too far, in betraying her mind to this woman, to draw back; tho' she already perceived with some pain, that
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her servant, lately so humble, put on airs of familiarity, from her confidence, which were sufficiently galling to a woman of her high spirit. But nothing levels conditions so surely as leagues of vice, and when once you are connected with your inferiors by similar crimes, all distinction is lost.

“No, nurse,” she returned, “I will not suffer a hair of the child’s head to be hurt --- God forbid! --- I only design to remove him from being a torment to us. Five miles from Carmarthen, there is a very honest woman that I can confide in, Jane Penry; she has several children: there we will carry him, and I will allow her a trifle for keeping this brat, till I can send him further a field, and you shall leave Lucy there too, for a few weeks. Mean time we will go home in great distress, wringing our hands and tearing our hair, and say that we were attacked by a company of gypsies, who robbed us of what we had, and forced the children from us. But in order to conduct the matter with less suspicion, as the weather is fine, we will, as we are now not above a mile from home, pretend an inclination to walk the rest of the way, and send the chaise and driver home before us; I will carry Lucy, and

you shall take the other, and we will walk on foot to Penry's; our long stay after the chaise will alarm my husband and the family, and will make what we say the more probable." Margaret came, at once, into the scheme, and they soon dispatched the servant and chaise, and were left to themselves to complete their designs.

One unlucky circumstance contributed the facility with which they laid their plan; which was, that the fellow who drove the chaise was very deaf, otherwise they could not then have brought matters to such an issue.

The innocent victim during the journey had often looked round, and called upon his papa, in which he was joined by his companion; they both frequently whimpered; but were rendered quiet by repeated promises of carrying them to him, which they had already sense enough to be pacified with.

After a long jaunt, by roundabout ways, to prevent meeting with any one that knew them, they are arrived at Jane Penry's, whom they found, with all her bare-footed brats about her, spinning at the door of her hovel, which work formed one very necessary means of her support. She rose up, and expressed her wonder at the sight
of

of Mrs Jones; with some extempore compliments and blessings, in her way, on the children.----Mrs Jones desired to speak with her apart, and leaving nurse with her unfortunate charge upon Jane's seat, they went in doors, when, without any ceremony or preparation, she unburthened to her the whole designs she had formed; expecting no opposition from a woman of Jane's fordid circumstances, and that her will as well as her poverty, would yield immediate assent to all she dictated.

C H A P. VI.

The Foundling is left with Jane Penry, after some contest, with his play-mate Lucy.

JANE heard Mrs Jones with the utmost astonishment ; and having imbibed in her early years, many good principles and maxims, suited to keep her from being base or dishonest in her sphere of action, was at first filled with inward resentment, which yet she dared not express to a person from whom she had often received favours : She had heard of Mr Goldsmith, though she had never seen him, and the fame of his goodness had made an impression upon her, which was not easily overcome. The story of the Foundling melted her, for she was one of those beings that abound in the milk of human kindness, how little soever her means and appearances seemed to bespeak such a disposition : She was the forlorn widow of a poor but honest exciseman, whose education had been superior to his after-fortune, and whose death, if it involved her in misery and distress, had added fresh force to the precepts he had inspired

inspired her with. Under all her calamities, she looked up, with a patient resignation, to the divine disposer of events, and her mind was proof against the greatest temptation to an act that could forfeit in the least her claim to that powerful, though unseen, support.---Thus formed---thus situated, she heard with horror, Mrs Jones's harangue, and immediately resolved, by her compliance with her desire, to shield the little infant from further harm, by which, at the same time she should not forfeit the good-will of her patroness.---- Thus determined, she replied, at length, "Madam, I will do in every thing as you bid me; but fear I shall not be able to do justice to Miss Lucy, and therefore hope her abode with me wil not be very long." ---"Jenny," the other returned, "she must be some time here, to save appearances, and I know you to be so excellent a nurse, that I shall be in no pain for her: Here, take this money (giving her a handful of silver) and get one of your poor neighbours to assist you, and when I can dispose of the brat we have been talking of, Lucy shall, as by accident, be found and come home again, and I will make you a recompence for your pains and trouble, that shall thoroughly satisfy you." Their

Their conversation was here cut short, by the vehement cries of poor Billy, occasioned by his having noticed the absence of Lucy, and increased by two or three rough shakes and jolts of Margaret, to quiet him. Jane, who could not cunningly enough divest herself of her nature, ran to the door, exclaiming--“ Good God! what’s the matter with the child! and snatching it from the nurse, folded her arms about it, using the most endearing epithets to still his complaints, which, however, at the sight of his Lucy, who ran scared out of her wits, to him, soon ceased.

It was then agreed that Margaret should bring over some wearables and necessaries for the children, as soon as possible, and afterwards the heard-hearted Mrs Jones, and her associate began to measure back, with weary steps, the way they came; the former, so great is the force of nature, often turning back to bend her view toward Lucy, whilst both the babes cried incessantly after her, which cries greatly discomposed her, resolved as she was in her purposes.

Arrived at a proper distance, Mrs Jones stripped her pockets of her money and every thing valuable, and tied them in an handkerchief between her petticoats; and she

she and the nurse tore their caps, let their hair down in a disordered and dishevelled manner, and put their whole attire into such confusion as should bewray the ill-usage they would seem to have met with.

It was now the close of evening, when they heard at a distance the trampling of horses, and the hallooing of their riders; for several persons, upon Mr Jones's long expecting his wife, in vain, were dispatched, according to the chaise drivers directions, in search of her and her companions, and the husband himself was also on horse-back for the same purpose. Various had been the conjectures about their stay, and Jones's family were in the utmost anxiety. As soon as they thought they were come near enough to be heard, our feigned sufferers, bellowed forth loud exclamations and complaints-- the names of Billy and Lucy alternately broke the intervening silence of the night, and cries and lamentations succeeded, to which, the loneliness of the place, and the compunction of their minds, perhaps, contributed to give an air of reality.

In this attitude, after some time, they were discovered by the chaise-driver and another servant, to whom, seemingly ready to expire with mingled grief and horror,
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in disordered accents, they told their plausible tale.

The men were amazed at what they had discovered, and with much respect seating them, as well as they could, on their horses, led them gently to Carmarthen, where, in about two hours they safely arrived, and the whole neighbourhood were soon informed, by the lamentations of the family, of what had befallen them. Mr Jones, who did not arrive till the first act of this tragi-comedy was over, was greatly affected at the loss of his child, but more so with the condition of his wife, who kept up the farce so well as to fall into repeated fits, by which she persuaded the by-standers that even her life was in eminent danger; and she was put to bed in a state, to all appearance truly pitiable. Here we shall at present leave her, and return to the two innocents at honest Jane Penry's.

CHAP.

C H A P, VII.

Honest Jane Penry's Arrangements.--Her particular attention to her charge.--She is visited, and by whom.--What happens thereon.--State of Mr Goldsmith's Family, upon the loss of the Foundling.--His conjectures and behaviour.

N O sooner were Mrs Jones and her nurse out of sight, than Jane began to cast about in what manner she should best dispose of her two nurselings, on whom even whilst her thoughts were so engaged, she bestowed millions of tender caresses, holding one upon one knee, and the other upon the other. Nor could she forbear detesting in her mind the intended injury to little Billy, who, if possible, drew upon him more of her attention than Lucy. "Oh! (she exclaimed in her way) can there be a parent, a mother, of such diabolical principles, as, for a bare future and precarious prospect of interest, to sacrifice honour, conscience, and humanity to its gratification? One would think, pretty creature, thy sweet looks would melt brutality itself to compassion! Well---I thank thee,

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thee, oh ! gracious Being, that in poverty, obscurity, and dragging along a painful life, I esteem myself more, because acting agreeably to thy commands, and consequently more under thy protection, than I do any of these rich folks, who can so soon forget their duty to thee, and to their fellow creatures ! Let my days be closed in this situation, oh ! God, rather than for bettering my circumstances, I be tempted to act a vile part to support worldly pride and vanity, for which so many of these great people sacrifice every valuable consideration ! But, (kissing the child) I will, if possible, secure thee from impending danger---that good Mr Goldsmith shall have notice where thou art; and thou shalt soon be restored to his embraces."

Thus the good creature expressed herself, and soon after went to rest, and the two children (as if conscious of the good hands they had fallen into) sunk to repose, wearied with their late journey, upon Jane's homely pallet, and with her arms around them ; whilst her own children slept on the sordid rags spread on each side of her bed, to which use had accustomed them ; for Jane could boast little elegance in her furniture, or indeed much convenience ;

ience; but neatness and cleanliness were visible in all parts of her attire and her dwelling.

As soon as morning appeared, she ventured to leave the children asleep, and with hasty steps crossed over to another honest woman's cottage, at about a mile from her, who had a daughter old enough to become Jane's assistant in her new office, and who gladly accepted the invitation, and immediately set out with her for that purpose. Jane had made such haste that her young family were not yet awake, nor awoke for an hour after; by which time she had got her cottage set in order, and had nothing left but to discharge her duty towards them.

Infants themselves soon distinguish looks that are kind and favourable to them, and voices that softly soothe their little fretfulnesses; they were playful and calm, and seemed not to have any other idea of their change of situation, than the remembrance they had of the papa, and the mamma, as they mutually called them, to whom they had been accustomed before: For Jane had a thousand ways of diverting her little family, and as she soon procured, by the aid of Mrs. Jones's present, or bribe, all that was necessary for food, and the

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accommodation of her little guests, so she bestowed it upon them equally with her own; without any sordid reserve for the particular interest and convenience of herself.

Soon after breakfast Margaret M'Alister, being dispatched from her precious mistress, found means to stray, unsuspected of any one of the family, to Jane Penry's, who, at her entrance, had the two children upon her lap, her own standing at her knee, and fondling them with extreme tenderness. Margaret, whose importance was sufficiently swelled, by the confidence and trust reposed in her, assumed a superior look, told Jane she must not shew any regard to that brat; for if it was suffered to pine itself to death, it would be no matter, and would save any further trouble to her mistress, who was sufficiently embarrassed about it already; that she had sent her husband over to acquaint Mr. Goldsmith of the loss of the children, and supposed there would be a d—ble noise made about it; for her part, she would have soon put an end to the affair, if her mistress had consented; for it was very hard a family should be made uneasy upon the account of one little whelp, who came from nobody knew where, and of nobody knew whom;

whom; "but If you have any wit," added she, "you will soon do its business, and get my mistress's good-will, who, you know, by the Lord J—s, must be very kind to you, for fear you should tell tales; by the G—d that made me she shall behave very civilly to me for the future—it shall not be as it has been:—turn him out of your lap; z—ds! let him prow! about by himself, and break his neck, if possible."

Jane continued for some minutes immoveable and speechless, whilst Margaret untied her bundle, and laid upon the table some additional clothes and necessaries for Lucy; with a gown or two for Billy; which she hastily snatched up again, and thrusting them towards Jane, said, "here—put them upon your own children—what the brat has upon him, will serve him as long as he is with you: and do you hear, use him as coarsely as you can."

Recovered somewhat from her astonishment, Jane, at length, found her tongue, and returned, "Nurse, sure you cannot be in earnest—I only wish, instead of depriving the baby of what your mistress has sent for him, he had still greater plenty—no, no, the lovely child shall have every thing that belongs to it, with me, let his fate be what it please God afterwards, and

as to the rest, you may acquaint my mistress I shall take care to obey all her commands." Margaret, who judged Jane to be no more honest than herself seemed satisfied with these last words, which she interpreted in another sense than they were meant in, and, without saluting Billy, after some notice of Lucy, took her leave and returned to Carmarthen, Jane making no efforts to detain longer a guest for whom she had entertained the utmost aversion. As Deborah Price, the young woman she had procured to assist her, was present at this interview, and she knew her to be a kind-hearted honest girl, Jane did not hesitate to acquaint her with every thing she knew relative to Billy, and both of them shed tears upon the occasion, and resolved to do every thing in their power to prevent any further mischief befalling him; to which Deborah was still more inclined by her gratitude, having an aunt at Kidwelly, who was chiefly supported by Mr. Goldsmith's bounty.

They resolved, after some consultation, that Deborah should go over to Mr. Goldsmith's, and, under secrecy, acquaint him of the whole affair, the first opportunity, Jane being positive Billy could not remain long in her custody, without experiencing worse

worse effects of the jealousy of Mrs. Jones and the brutality of her nurse. Thus a week passed away, in which after this visit they saw nobody from Carmarthen, and scarce the face of any creature but their own family, lying quite out of the way of any visitors but those that came on purpose, or the Country gentlemen who followed accidentally the flying chace, over the heaths and commons which divided them from other habitations: As to the children, they were so kindly treated that they both grew extremely fond of Jane and her assistant, diverted themselves with the other infants, and received from their nurses every testimony of tenderness and affection. If some times the epithets papa and mamma escaped them, instead of being chid, they were promised to be carried to them on the morrow-day, which generally terminated their uneasiness with exultation. Mean time, the fondness of Lucy for Billy, and of Billy for Lucy, increased in a surprising degree, and charmed the good woman, who would sometimes exclaim—"Good God! Deborah, I think the regard these infants have for each other seems perfectly providential; perhaps Heaven means, thereby, to recompence this little sufferer, and has de-

creed, this way, to disappoint the cruel designs of Mrs. Jones."

It is now proper to return to Mr. Goldsmith, who we left going home after conducting his cousin and the children part of the way to Carmarthen. As he reflected, with pleasure, on the fondness the infants displayed for him, his satisfaction was extreme, and he arrived at home, full of the incident, and rejoiced with Mrs. Julian, at the tenderness Mrs. Jones had shewn to Billy, and the unaccountable attachment of the two infants to each other. "Alas! (cried Goldsmith) my good Mrs. Julian, I now feel all that I have lost, by never entering into the felicitous state of matrimony; the wonderful affection I have conceived for this boy, which is a sensation quite new to my breast, convinces me how happy I should have been to have possessed children of my own. But, alas! I am disappointed of all the joys of a real parent; in lieu of which I will now indulge the tenderness I feel for the child of my adoption, and which breathes so much delight to my soul. If he does but answer my cares, if his bosom expands with the virtues that should adorn humanity; if he lives to be a comfort and an honour to me and his other friends, and to be grateful

to his Maker for his almost miraculous preservation; to extend his benevolence wherever distress or misery call for it; I shall then exult that my possessions pass into such worthy hands, and that my name may live, as it were, in his future progeny. "But," recollecting himself, "I must not build too much upon these pleasing hopes, distempers await every tenant of this world; he may be early snatched from our embraces; or he may—but heavens forbid! fall into vices that will disgrace him, and render him a curse, rather than a blessing to society. However, I trust providence will direct me, and enable me to instill such sentiments into his mind, as will, as far as human prescience can reach, secure him from such a disposition, and crown all my labours."

Mrs. Julian heartily joined in her master's prayer, and could not help observing that the house was very lonesome without the child, who had been an agreeable entertainment, rather than an object of trouble, since providence had given him to their embraces.

Mrs. Lloyd, so important little Billy was grown in the neighbourhood, sent, soon after Mr Goldsmith's arrival, to inquire how the children were, when he left them,

them, and her husband and Mr. Jenkins came over to spend the evening with their worthy neighbour. Nothing was spared to make his friends welcome, and after supper, Billy made not the least part of the subject of their discourse. Mr. Goldsmith expressed the pleasure he had received from his cousin's fondness for him, and the sudden progress he had made in her affection, in which the parson joined with him; but Mr. Lloyd happening to say, he had observed Mrs. Jones to be very self-interested, jokingly added, that Billy was a deposit he should hardly have confided to her care, as she must have heard he was likely to cut off all hopes from her family of enjoying a considerable fortune: "How came you my friend," continued he, "who know so much of the world, to put such a temptation in the way of a designing woman; for so Mrs. Lloyd tells me she has observed her to be, and, I must profess, I never knew her yet mistaken in her judgment?" Mr. Jenkins looked grave; and as to Mr. Goldsmith, he was quite disconcerted; which Mr. Lloyd perceiving, would have turned what he said into jest: But Mr. Goldsmith, catching him by the hand, with a hearty squeeze, told him his observation had its due weight with him;

him ; but he could not imagine, however, that his cousin would be so base as to injure the child ; for she could not yet determine how he might affect the fortunes of her children, as he had not been explicit with her on that head. “ However, my friend,” added he, “ you have roused a thought that will prompt me to repair to Carmarthen and take him out of her hands ; for if there be a possibility, and much more if there be a probability, of any harm happening to the poor infant, it becomes a prudent man to guard against it. And now, how ~~shot~~ ^{short}-sighted we are ! I cannot help recollecting that her behaviour to him seemed to wear too much the air of force and affectation, to be sincere. I positively will have him here to-morrow, say what she will—her repeated offers and eagerness to have him with her, forebode me no good ! I see it—you have opened my eyes.”

Mr. Jenkins himself, who was the last to judge unfavourably of any one, could not help applauding Mr. Goldsmith’s determination ; and as to Mrs. Julian, the very apprehension of Billy’s danger threw her into a flood of tears, which, however, were dried up by her master’s reiterating his promise to fetch him home the next day,

day, and Mr. Lloyd's saying, it was very improbable in so short a space of time, that any thing should be executed to his prejudice.

Notwithstanding, the subject cast them all into so serious a mood, that they did not recover themselves to a free conversation for the rest of the night, nor could the honest Goldsmith afterwards close his eyes to sleep, so much his apprehensions had disturbed him.

It was about ten the next morning, when having put on his boots, and going to mount his horse for Carmarthen, he perceived Mr. Jones alight, all in a sweat, at his gate. This at once awakened all his fears afresh, as he came so seldom, and was, now, such an unexpected visitant.

Jones no sooner entered the house, than he exclaimed, "Cousin Goldsmith, you and I have suffered a sad loss, more severe to me, however, than the shipwreck of a straits-man; but there is no insuring against accidents in this life: Let a venture be of ever so great value, some cross chance or other disappoints its success.--- The two children, my wife lost before she reached Carmarthen, and though we have made all the search we can, they are not

to be recovered.-----Indeed, I always thought such a variety of gypsies and vagrants as prowl about the country, were insufferable in a well-governed state; but truly our pigs and poultry will not now satisfy them;---they must have our children too; nay and our purses; for, it seems Mrs. Jones and her nurse had their pockets stripped into the bargain.---It is fruitless to lament, cousin, and I came by Mrs. Jones's desire to consult you about advertising them in the Shrewsbury and other papers, with a good reward for bringing them back;---that will, no doubt, prevail in our favour, as to be sure they only took them away to use in their begging trade, and to bring them up gypsies like themselves."

Mr. Goldsmith heard this cool account from Jones, without giving him the least interruption; horror and astonishment had so depraved him of the power of speech, whilst a tear stole down his cheek; but, at length, resuming his rational powers, after some minutes reflecting over this strange story, he replied, with a remarkable asperity in his accent, "Cousin Jones, cousin Jones, I fear all is not right; but before we enter upon means of relief, give me a distinct account of this affair, as it has been related

related to you by your wife. I am resolved to search this matter to the bottom."

Jones, not a little surprized at Goldsmith's earnest air and manner of speech, looked somewhat queerly; but at length told the whole story, as his wife had delivered it to him; for he had never ventured to dispute or contradict any part of it; but implicitly believed her relation. When he had finished, Mr. Goldsmith desired him to be seated, for as yet they had been standing, through inattention to any thing but the business they were upon; and during the few minutes that Mrs. Julian was accommodating Jones with some refreshments, Goldsmith continued to ruminate over his very strange story; by no means to the advantage of Mrs. Jones and her husband, who, after some time, he addressed in the following words: "Is it possible, cousin, you should think me a proper person to be made a dupe of? By what behaviour of mine could you imagine I had such a credulous disposition, as to be played upon in so bare-faced a manner?—I left my cousin and her nurse safe, with the children, at no great distance from Carmarthen, and in a part of her journey, where neither robbers or gypsies have been heard of, for many years;—and it appears,

appears, she herself thought the rest of her way so safe, as to intend walking part of it; with which intent she discharged her chaise, with its driver; though it was far from being inviting weather to walk in. She is missed after some time—you send in search of her—she is found, with her attendant, in a disordered and dishevelled condition, bereaved of the two children, who, forsooth, are torn from her by gypsies; the rest naturally occurs, fainting, illness, a speedy recovery, and as you tell me, unabated affliction.----Now, cousin Jones, let me give you my sentiments of the matter: But first let me ask you a question or two: Did your wife, that you can remember, ever send her carriage home, and walk part of the way before? A woman that was always eager to return to her family as fast as possible, and whose absence, even when at my house, was accompanied with anxiety to be at home. Again, is it not strange, under the notion of pleasure, that she should, just at this time only, have an inclination to alight and walk home, burdened with two children, one of which of course she must be obliged to carry herself, who had never even carried her own children? Have you lately heard of any rogues, vagabonds, or

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even gypsies, frequenting our parts? or have you, for several years, heard particularly of any of the latter amongst us, or of the loss of poultry, pigs, linen stolen of the hedges or any other species of the property, of the country people?" Mr Jones, who was far from wanting sagacity, when he dared to exercise it, which his wife seldom suffered him to do, in any matter in which she was concerned, seemed quite disconcerted at these home questions—stared—rubbed his hands—scratched his head, alternately turned his wig awry, and adjusted it, and, in fine, broke out into the following expressions: "Why—indeed—it does appear odd enough—the never did walk before—always chose to be home with as much expedition as possible—does not love fatigue—hates bad weather—never loved to carry children:—Nay, I have heard of no robberies, of no gypsies, I protest—and would as soon suppose a Sallee rover upon the coast, as a gypsy near Carmarthen:—Faith I did not enter into the thing so much before;—but, then, it must be so—the children are gone, and they have been robbed;—that cannot be contradicted, cousin Goldsmith."

The honest answers of the merchant, had an awkward sincerity in his manner of familiarity,

familiarity, and his unembarrassed countenance, convinced the acute-thinking Mr. Goldsmith, that he had wronged him in supposing he was concerned in any contrivance to the detriment of Billy : Whereupon, taking Jones, in a most friendly manner, by the hand, he returned : “ My dear cousin, I will now declare to you my real thoughts of this affair. The history of the foundling you are acquainted with already ; you are no stranger to your wife’s immoderate regard to the interests of her family ; a laudable disposition, if it is not indulged at the expence of honesty and conscience ; but when it breaks down those fences, when it carries us to injustice and cruelty, which of all the prepositions of the human breast it is most liable to do, it becomes a curse to the wretch himself, and to every one he has any dealings with ;—it will steel the mind to compassion, nay, to every human feeling ;—self—self alone, engrosses every care—and to dear self every consideration of reason and religion is sacrificed. Mrs. Jones, perhaps, imagined my affection for this child, would incline me to give him a settlement, should he live, that would be injurious to the future expectations of her children :—Her regard shewn to little Billy, then, was

mere art and hypocrisy (I must think) to get him into her hands:---I will not think so badly of her, as to indulge so dreadful an idea, as that of her having personally hurt or abused my child; but I must suppose she sent home ~~the chaise~~, that she might more readily form the story you have heard; that, instead of being robbed, she has bestowed her money and the children, in some private retreat, where she supposes I shall never see him more;—as to her being robbed by gypsies, instead of thieves, a word she would naturally have made use of, I can see through her art there too: Footpads never steal children; Gypsies do—now your mind must open cousin; but her finesse is seen through---if she deceived me into an opinion of her regard to the child, she will never make me believe this strange story; even though my pretty Lucy is involved, apparently, in his misfortune.—Nor, indeed, can the truth remain long undiscovered: The accident is too recent for the gypsies to have strolled a great way—she, herself, was too short a space engaged in the execution of her project (so I am resolved to think it) to carry the children many miles: I will, this instant, set out for the spot, and dispatch all my friends and servants to examine

mine every inhabited house or cottage for twenty miles round; will issue my own warrant, and send to the magistrates of the neighbouring counties, to issue orders to stop all suspected persons, with children, upon a supposition of her having given them into such hands, which, however, I do not believe she has: No, depend upon it, if I have any discernment, Lucy and Billy, if even at different places, are not very remote from the place where the chaise left them, and that we can certainly learn from the driver. Alas! poor infant, what remorseless heart could think of injuring so much innocence! A mother of children too! Gracious heaven, to what new crimes will not the age arrive!---I desire, cousin, you would join with me in this search; you have lost a daughter, pretty creature!--But I would have you first go to Carmarthen, get what intelligence you can; I and my friends will spread ourselves different ways, and you may meet me at Passby. I am above desiring you to conceal my sentiments from your wife; see what an impression it will make upon her."

Mr. Jones now seemed convinced almost there had been foul play; promised Mr. Goldsmith to act as he had directed him, and, with a down-cast countenance,

mounted his horse, and rode away homewards.

“ Well,” says Goldsmith, as soon as he was out of sight, “ I must believe Jones is not in concert with his wife ; the artless telling of his tale, his visible astonishment at the several questions I put to him, and that seeming conviction he was under when he departed, are all proofs to me that he has been made the dupe to his own credulity ; but, perhaps, he may, now, assume the privilege of thinking a little for himself ; which will, alone, be a sufficient punishment for his wife : I make no doubt, Mrs. Julian, that we shall recover my boy, for which I will spare no pains, or expence ; he cannot be secreted at any great distance from Carmarthen ; Lucy is in the same circumstances ; some low instruments are made use of for their concealment, and as their souls may be biassed by interest, or shook by apprehension of superior power, I must think I shall soon have him in my possession again. Ah ! my good, Mrs. Julian, I little imagined, till this moment, what a hold he had of my affection !”

Mrs. Julian could only make answer with her tears, tears not only flowing from her regard for the children, but for the depravity

depravity and vices of human nature ; which though she had been a melancholy witness of, in the greatest part of her life, she had long ceased to be a witness to. Perhaps too, with her master, she was inly chagrined to have been so much imposed upon, by the specious pretences of Mrs. Jones. However, Mrs. Julian comforted herself in some degree, with her master's assurances, who immediately rode over to the Squire's and the Parsons, and they, taking a sufficient number of their several servants, gave them proper directions to examine every cottage and village in their way, and then rode themselves towards the spot, whereon Mr. Jones had reported the robbery was committed.

At Passby they met Mr. Jones, as had been appointed, which was about a mile and half from the spot where Mrs. Jones pretended her late misfortune had befallen her, and about three miles from Carmarthen ; but our adventurers discovered immediately, that his mission to his wife had had no manner of effect in Billy's favour, and conjectured by his mortified countenance, that Mrs. Jones had given but a scurvy reception to his embassy. " Cousin Jones, Mr. Goldsmith cried, have you good tidings for us ? Will your wife confess
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or no?" Jones made no immediate reply; the presence of the other gentlemen disconcerted him; for he had no expectation of meeting with any one but Goldsmith. After some pause, however, he replied, "Faith cousin, I believe Mrs. Jones is injured by our suspicions; the report I made of my conversation with you, so afflicted her, that she is even at death's door, and she persists she has said nothing but truth. No wonder, then, poor creature, that she loaded me with reproaches, for my insinuations: So nothing now remains, but that we take different routs to see if we can discover our poor children: I do not care how far I roam for that purpose;--if I return without them, I am sure to be deprived of a valuable woman also, who cannot long survive their loss." Here, *albeit unused to the melting mood*, the poor man shed tears, and sincere tears they were;--he was persuaded into a belief of all he uttered, and his feelings corresponded with that belief.

C H A P. VIII.

Which contains many interesting events.

MR. Goldsmith and his friends pitied the poor Mr. Jones, and the former said, "Well, cousin, we will immediately follow your advice, and divide ourselves in such a manner as to entitle us, at least, to success, of which I do not in the least despair. Only, my dear Jones, answer me one question, and also excuse me for asking it. Had Mrs. Jones any opportunity, from the time of your talking with her, to the time of your leaving her, to give private directions to, or to have any conversation with any of her domestics or servants?" "No cousin," he replied, "I found no one with her, nor did any one enter the apartment whilst I staid there: She was so ill as with difficulty to speak to me. Ah! cousin Goldsmith, she really is to be much pitied!"

"As we must," Goldsmith returned, "in common charity wish that to be the case; if it proves so, no person will be more eager to do her justice than myself; and, tho' appearances are so evidently unfavourable

favourable to her, yet will we pursue such methods as would be dictated if we had no sinister opinion of her: already our servants are searching all the villages and cottages within ten miles of this spot; now, cousin, you and your man, if you please, shall make your inquiry from this place into Pembrokeshire; from thence to Newcastle, and so on into the west of Cardiganshire: Myself will go through Carmarthen, by Abergwilly, and so on by Llandilovaur and Llangadoc, and keeping still to the right, will touch upon the North part of Brecknockshire, and the East border of Cardiganshire: Our friend, Mr. Jenkins will kindly take his rout strait northward, and we will all three meet at Lanbedar; mean time, good Squire Lloyd will be so condescending as to direct his search both eastward and westward, quite into Glamorganshire and the South of Pembrokeshire: and excuse me, my friends, for taking upon me the post of director in this affair: Let us give a description of the children to the magistrates in every town we pass thro'; and an account of the manner of their being taken away; not forgetting to promise a considerable reward for any one that shall bring tale or tidings of them, and to examine every wood, common, heath
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and village in our way : And God speed our labours !”

Mr. Goldsmith had no sooner ended his instructions, but, every one yielding assent, and Mr. Lloyd promising to meet them at Abergwilly, in their return, they shook hands, and wishing heartily success to their mutual endeavours, that minute set out, on their intended search.

It is necessary now to return to Mrs. Jones, who, the reader will readily suppose, was at this time in no very pleasing situation of mind. She had fondly persuaded herself that, as she had so readily imposed upon her husband's credulity, she should find little more difficulty in making Mr. Goldsmith believe her plausible story, and that a short time would render him indifferent about the children ; for it was not at all unnatural that she should judge of that worthy man from her own dispositions and feelings : But when Mr. Jones returned from Kidwelly, and informed her of his reception at Goldsmith's, of that gentleman's suppositions and queries, and went so far as to doubt the facts she had informed him of, himself, she became a perfect fury ; and, after loading her husband with a thousand ill names and reproaches, left him in such a perturbation of mind as cannot

cannot be expressed. Her agitations were so violent, as to cause real instead of the former pretended swoonings, and he parted from her, as he informed his friends, in agonies inexpressible; but still steadily avowing all she had said of the children to be true, cursing her cousin for his unbelief, and politically lamenting, alternately, her misfortune.

In this condition Mr. Jones left his imperious wife, with an heavy heart, and as soon as he departed, being left at liberty to indulge reflection, she was sufficiently punished for her brutality: Fear and terror, lest the children should be discovered at Penry's; anger at the disappointment she had met with in her cousin's reception of her tale; apprehension that Margaret might betray her, if a reward were offered for the discovery of the children, or that Jane Penry herself might lay hold of the occasion, to obtain it; with some slight motions of tenderness towards her Lucy, whose bringing home was now still more distant; and an intruding remorse that will sometimes, officiously, pervade the most resolved and obdurate breasts, altogether made her mind a perfect hell, and her brain a chaos of confused and distorted ideas. Whenever she turned her thoughts,
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she found nothing that promised her exemption from the shame that would attend the discovery that must, she did not doubt, be made of her baseness, by so sudden and well conducted a search as Mr. Jones had informed her was then going to be made. One moment conscience, a little touched, whispered to her that it was most illegible to own the matter to her cousin, and throw herself upon his mercy; another she determined to send for the children immediately and turn the whole into a jest, as a design to make trial of Mr. Goldsmith's affection for the child, and how much the loss of it would alarm him: But the consequence she knew would be, that she must humble herself not only to him, but to her husband, in a manner that would never agree with her imperious temper, and her pride in controuling and dictating upon all occasions. These schemes, then, all rejected; she, fury-like, called for her accomplice Margaret, and in a hasty and commanding tone, ordered her to go and take the children from Penry's under pretence of bringing them home; but to carry them to some more distant and secure place, and stay with them till she heard from her; at the same time giving her a handful of gold to defray ex-

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pences, without counting it, so great was her hurry and confusion; nor did she think of, or mention any particular place of retreat for Margaret and the infants, till that wretch put her in mind of her omission; but that question, and the terror that also seemed to have seized the querist, perforce recalled her to more consideration, and she then opened her whole mind before her. After some consultation, Mrs. Jones recollected that a servant-maid, who once lived with her, had married a fisherman, named Williams, and now resided at a town called Tenby, in Pembroke-shire: Upon which she wrote a few lines to her, containing an earnest request to let the bearer and children stay privately with her, till she came for them herself, with a promise of defraying all expences, and also bestowing upon her a handsome reward for her trouble. This performed, and Margaret binding herself by an hundred oaths to be obedient to all her directions, and assuring her she knew how to reach the place by bye and unfrequented ways, she departed; but never jogged her Mistress's memory in relation to the tale of the money.

The time of Margaret's departure, pretty nearly coincided with that of the gentlemen's

men's separating in search of the children; but though her mistress was in such haste, Margaret not thinking herself in any danger, let matters turn out as they might, as she had only obeyed her order, and she knew the children whom she had just seen, were safe, and also as she was not urged by those fears of shame and loss of reputation which so operated on her principal's mind, made no extraordinary speed to execute her commission. She was possessed of more money than she ever was before; she thought her mistress dared not call her to account, and now, released from the painful restraint she had so long laboured under, resolved to solace herself with a companion or two before she departed from Carmarthen, where we will leave her, to return to our adventurers.

Those gentlemen were upon their expedition above a week, without tracing either the footsteps of the gypsies, or the place of the children's concealment, and returned to Abergwilly, tired and full of uneasiness at their ill success; upon which Jones ventured to assert the probability of his wife's account; but was cut short by Mr. Goldsmith, who said, "Now, in my opinion, cousin Jones, her account is still

more to be suspected than before; for, you see, we have heard of neither gypsy or robber being in this county, or its environs, for more than a month; had it been otherwise, considering our mutual strict inquiries, it is not possible but we must have got intelligence of some of their villainies: No, no, Sir, I am convinced the children are now hid in or near Carmarthen, where, indeed, we should have begun our search: The time that elapsed from the robbery to the coming home of your wife, was too short, to convey them to any considerable distance; but, indeed, it was no supposition they had been transferred into other hands, that we went so far a field. However, let us make amends for our fault; you, Sir, with our reverend friend, as you are best acquainted with the town, will make every inquiry possible there, whilst Mr. Lloyd and myself will beat about in the adjacent villages, more strictly than either that gentleman or our servants have hitherto done, asking both those gentlemen a thousand pardons for the trouble we have given them." Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Jenkins said Mr. Goldsmith had affronted them by his apology, protesting they were never employed in any thing they thought so much their duty; besides that, in endeavouring

deavouring to restore Billy to his embraces, they were indulging that warm affection they had conceived themselves for the child.

They all parted, then, once more, in pursuit of the objects of their concern, and Mr. Jones, calling at home, imparted the bad success they had met with to Mrs. Jones, who, to all appearance, was under the greatest affliction; but these tidings were, secretly, balm to her mind, as she doubted not but her nurse, who she had not seen since her setting out for Penry's, had removed the children to Tenby, many days before: For as the whole town rung with the story of her loss, she received few visits, and studiously inculcated, by her shew of illness and retirement, an opinion that she was under the most grievous distress, and consequently, as she had no other accomplice, could have no intelligence, nor dared to send for any to Penry's.

It was a most delightful morning when Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Goldsmith began their little journey from Abergwilly, and the solemnity of concern that impressed their minds, upon their late disappointment, so engrossed them, as to afford them very little inclination for converse. Thus they jogged on, peeping into every cottage and

hovel in their way, and cheered, when they heard any where, the cries, or the brawling of children, eagerly hoping they were those they sought: Providence, at length, conducted them over the Common, and to the very house where Billy and Lucy were secreted, which they discovered by accident, as they were just going to leave it to the right.

Mr. Lloyd was the first who spied the wattled, clay edifice, which stood in a bottom, and saying to his companion, "My friend, I do not remember to have been ever before on this spot, or at least I never took notice of this cottage," they put their horses upon a brisk trot, and soon reached that abode of honesty and poverty, to which their approach was first announced by the yelpings of a little cur, which Joan kept for the diversion of her children.

That worthy creature came to the door of her cottage wondering what could give the animal such disturbance; and seeing two well-looking gentlemen on horseback, dropped them a low courtesy, and asked them if they had lost their way, and if they thought proper to alight and refresh themselves with what her poor hovel afforded.

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The decent and cleanly appearance of the woman, and an air of gentility which she wore, so different from persons of her condition, with her smooth address, the relics of better times, captivated our travellers so much that they resolved at once to accept her invitation: To which, also, they were impelled by seeing two or three children crowd behind her to the door. They, therefore, alighted, and seemed as much taken with the neatness of the homely apartment they entered, whose clayey walls and floor, wanted not such rustic decorations, as displayed at once the housewifry and the fancy of its possessor. Jane spread immediately a coarse but clean cloth upon her old-fashioned table, and placed before her guests a piece of cold bacon, with some bread and cheese, and a pitcher of small cyder, which still more astonished them, as they expected nothing better than water; and afterwards, like one of the eastern dames of yore, she drew a bucket of water from her well, and carried it to their horses: Mean time the gentlemen, whose appetites were rendered still keener by the kind hospitality of their hostess, eat of her homely fare with eagerness, not without casting looks of surprize at each other, whilst the children dandled
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about them, and shared a considerable part of their notice. "My friend," Goldsmith exclaimed, "sure we are got into some enchanted maze!—how, in the name of wonder, could such humble worth exist so near us and be unnoticed by us before?—how different the manners, the speech, the appearance of this poor woman, from that of our common people!—I am charmed, I confess, and believe you think, with me, she is worthy our further inquiry and regard. Happy cottage, which is either the retreat of undeserved misfortune, or of moderate desires and temperance of soul, much to be envied!"

Here he broke off, their attention being diverted by the cries of a child in the inner room, or division, of the cottage, followed by several soothing and tender words from a female voice, and the return of their hostess, who told them she was delighted her poor provisions pleased them, and shewed so much, by every word and action, that delight her honest heart felt, as drew from them the most grateful returns.

Goldsmith, after some pause, in the mildest accent, said, "worthy creature, your hospitality to strangers, seems to flow from the goodness of your heart, and from

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sentiments superior to what we might expect in this solitude ; nor have you obliged the ungrateful ; your behaviour shall not be unrewarded ; but of that hereafter. Tell me, worthy woman, of how many your family consists ; I am urged to that inquiry by having overheard some voices in the room next to us. I should have satisfied myself, by an intrusion customary to strangers in such places, did not every thing about you dictate that respect due to superior virtue and delicacy."

Jane, for some moments continued silent, sometimes directing her eyes towards the ground, and then, with an air of perceivable embarrassment, inspecting the looks of the two gentlemen, silently desiring to be convinced if they were what their speech and appearance bespoke ; and, at length, delivered herself as follows ; at the same time a tear trickling down her cheeks.

" My own family, gentlemen, are all here before you ; but I have others, under this homely roof, who perhaps deserve and were designed for a better habitation. It is true I was not born or bred in this place, nor in a situation which to outward appearance includes abundance of wretchedness ; but to a contented and thankful mind, which adores the dispensations of
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providence, and with submission bows to them, it may be improved into a state of perfect happiness, of which (amidst many unsatisfied desires which will intrude themselves whether one will or no, many distressing thoughts for the future provision and happiness of these, without my assistance, perfectly destitute infants, the offspring of an honest father) I certainly may be said to participate; nor do any sufferings or anxious thoughts sour my temper towards persons in better circumstances than myself; but I burn to do every kind office in my power. If any thing gives me pain at present, it is on account of a deposit in my hands, and the concern I feel, that some people of fortune seem to imagine poverty may be tempted to any base and wicked action. You seem, gentlemen, by your aspect, to have hearts full of compassion and humanity, and therefore I may hope your pardon if I venture to ask you a single question?"

Mr. Goldsmith and the Squire, touched with this sensible introduction, and wondering to what it should tend, in the kindest manner assured her, nothing she said could be disagreeable to them, and they were ready to satisfy her in every thing she demanded.

Jane,

Jane, with pleasure heard this reply, and courtesying, said, "Do you both, or either of you gentlemen, know a most worthy man, one Mr. Goldsmith of St. Ismael, near Kidwelly? I have some business with him, which I should be glad to communicate to him, and have intended to send a young woman over to him some day for that purpose; but by an accident she is lame and cannot go, and it is impossible for me to leave my little family, and her in that condition. for so long a time as such a journey would take up. Now, if either of you gentlemen will undertake to impart what I am going to say, to him, I dare believe he will be very thankful; you will relieve me from the most intolerable apprehensions, for the safety of one who is dear to him, and make me very happy."

Whilst she thus spake, Goldsmith, whose thoughts ran perpetually on poor Billy, was in hopes she knew somewhat of that dear infant, and he was so agitated by what she had said. that, but Mr. Llyod jogged him to he silent, though his thoughts were the same with that gentleman's, he would have risen and even embracd the honest woman with rapture; but the Squire was resolved he should not yet discover himself
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and therefore took upon him to answer for them both.

“ Good woman, I assure you we are both intimately acquainted with the gentleman you mention, and that whatever business you have with him, if you will inform us of it, so much esteem of you, you have excited, we will communicate it to him before we sleep this night, and you may assure yourself, any commission from you to him, shall be executed with the utmost pleasure; nay more, we can assure you, such is the temper of Mr. Goldsmith, that if you can give him the least intelligence that will in the least benefit him, he will ever shew you, you have obliged a person truly sensible of the favour conferred upon him: speak on, we are all attention.”

“ I must beg leave, Jane replied, to conceal a particular person's name from you; because I have received favours from her; and though I betray her secret, yet I have some hope that the good gentleman I mentioned will pass over her share in the transaction, with prudent silence.” She then told them the whole of Mrs. Jones's coming to her cottage with the children, without mentioning her name, her behaviour, and her own apprehensions thereon; the
visit

visit paid her the next day by Margaret M'Allister; and concluded thus: "Now, gentlemen, I am not a little surpris'd that before now, I have heard no more of my disagreeable visitors; one of the children, to be sure, she has a right to demand, it is her own: and, as you plainly perceive, was left with me to cover an artful tale: But I was resolv'd the other should not be taken from me, but by violence, as I had the greatest reason to imagine no good was intended to him: I have been upon the rack for some days, to let his patron know where he was, that he might place him in security: The gentleman's benevolence I am no stranger to, though I had never the happiness of seeing him; but the hope of reward is no motive with me: Poor as I am, I trust in God I shall ever be guarded against committing a base action knowingly; beside, the dear little fellow has gained such a hold already, in my affections, as I can ascribe to nothing but his artless little blandishments, the loveliness of his person, and the melancholy circumstances the helpless innocent is involved in: Indeed, his pretty little wife, as I cannot help calling her, from the mutual affection they have for each other, is also to be pitied; but it is only because she has such a mother.

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Happy

Happy should I think myself, if my circumstances would afford me an opportunity always to retain them with me, and to be a witness to the charms of their opening minds.—You seem surpris'd, gentlemen, at the peculiarity of my sentiments, and I wonder not at it, considering the sordid appearance I make before you; but it may be thus accounted for: I fear God, I reverence all his precepts, *I do justice, I love mercy*, as far as my ability extends, and look forwards to that *blessed hope* of an hereafter, which shall recompence me for my steadfastness, when all the miseries of this frail and uncertain life are past away. You shall see the lovely babes—if you do not, gentlemen, feel a fondness at first sight of them, I am greatly mistaken—” She was going on, when Goldsmith quite overcome, tears of joy and admiration trickling down his cheeks, rose suddenly, and folding his arms round the honest creature, exclaimed, “exalted principles! transcendent goodness!—my name is Goldsmith—bring my children to me—you have made me supremely happy!”

Mrs. Penry, with an air of astonishment, her hands lifted up to heaven, broke, with great respect, from Mr. Goldsmith's arms, and, wild with joy, ran into the other room.

room; from whence she returned, in a moment, and before the gentlemen were calm enough to follow her, brought Billy in her own arms, Dorothy coming after with Lucy.

No sooner the children cast their eyes upon Mr. Goldsmith, than both, in the same instant, almost flinging themselves out of the arms that held them, screamed out Papa! Papa!—Goldsmith took Billy and hugging him to his bosom, “Poor dear baby! my dearest child! my angel!” he cried, “this is the second time providence has directed me to save thee from death; but I will never part from thee out of my sight again;” then sitting down, he took Lucy on his other knee, and bestowed upon her the most tender carresses, Mr. Lloyd alternately giving them tokens of the pleasure he received in thus recovering them. Jane and her assistant were quite transported, and the former said, solemnly, “This is God’s doing!”

When a little calmness succeeded this wildness of affection, Mr. Goldsmith thus addressed himself to Mrs. Penry, “Your honesty and your tenderness to these children, and your generous intentions in their favour and mine, would be motives more than sufficient to engage me to make your

future days happy: But that it is in my power to rescue from want and distress a person every way worthy of a better fortune; who bears poverty and calamity with such a truly christian temper of mind, gives me an extreme delight; you shall no more inhabit this cottage and this dear Common; as you have conceived such a love for these children, I invite you to spend the rest of your days in my family; your children I will take care to see brought up at school, and when they arrive to a sufficient age, will put them to such occupations as they seem fit for, or make choice of." "And I," added Mr. Lloyd, "will co-operate with my worthy friend, and will endeavour to procure them every advantage in their entrance into life. Here good Mrs. Penry, for that you say is your name, accept this small present as an earnest of what I propose," and at these words put into her hands five guineas.

Jane, overpowered with such marks of goodness and generosity, was some moments silent;—at length she found her tongue; in a fervent ejaculation returned thanks to God, and then said, "Worthy Sir," addressing herself first to Mr. Goldsmith, "I have not deserved all this good-

ness

ness at your hands—I have barely done my duty, and you propose to me rewards that fill me with confusion ; yet I cannot, without ingratitude, refuse to accept of them : to be near these dear children, will be the greatest of comforts to me ; to be in the view and contemplation of your piety and virtue will be my supreme felicity—These children will, I hope, live (addressing them both) to be an honour to their benefactors ; and when you come, gentlemen, to know they are the offspring of a worthy, but unfortunate father, you will not think them improper objects of your bounty. It shall be my duty, I hope it will be theirs, to learn, with uplifted hands, to beseech the Almighty to multiply his blessings upon you and your families : Permit me, Sir, turning to Mr. Lloyd, to ask one favour of you : This present, which you are pleased to insist upon my receiving, will be superfluous to me ; the young woman who stands by me, and who has a great deal of merit, loves these dear children, and joined with me in the design of rescuing one of them from the bad hands they had fallen into ; it will be of service to her.—Indeed, Sir, I am too bold ; but beg it as the greatest favour that I may transfer the gift to her.”

Deborah hung down her head, her face all suffused with blushes, as was that of Penry, who reflected she had been rather too presumptuous; but she had the best and most considerate tempers to deal with, who looked upon what she had uttered as the emanation of an honest and friendly heart. "No, no," Mr. Lloyd replied, "I am not offended, and the young woman shall meet with a reward, without taking from what I gave you; but at present, it is proper to think of other matters:" "My friend," continued he, directing his discourse to Goldsmith, "I have a plan in my head that will produce sufficient punishment to Mrs. Jones; as you propose to take the children immediately from hence, with Mrs. Penry, let us contrive that she shall not see Miss Lucy, till we find her thoroughly repentant; and to conceal the finding the children from every body but two or three friends, that is to say, Mrs. Julian, Mr. Jenkins, Mrs. Lloyd, and ourselves. And, as no doubt Mrs. Jones will soon send here to put the remainder of the scheme she has formed into execution, let the young woman take possession of the cottage, and when that lady or any of her agents come here, let them be told Mrs. Penry is gone away with all the

the children, she knows not where, and we shall have the satisfaction to hear how they behave, and afterwards let the worthy girl take all Mrs. Penry thinks proper for her own use, to which we will add a sum of money that may be of service to her and her mother, as we are informed her circumstances are but low : Sure there cannot be a more sublime pleasure than promoting the happiness of merit and virtue !”

Mr. Goldsmith, pleased with the proposal, determined to ride home and return with a carriage for Mrs. Penry and the children, and having prepared Mrs. Julian, to carry them all over to St. Ismael that night ; accordingly he departed, and made Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Julian supremely happy by the tidings he brought of the recovery of the children, who promised to prepare for their reception. At the close of day, so expeditious he had been, he returned to the Common, with two chaises, having enjoined the most scrupulous secrecy to the drivers, his own servants ; and Mrs. Penry and the two children in one of them, and Mr. Lloyd and the three children of Penry in the other, immediately set out on their little journey, and, arriving safe at St. Ismael, were privately conducted

ted by that gentleman through the orchard and garden, into a back apartment of the house, quite remote from observation, of which, after the tenderest caresses of Billy and Lucy, and crying over them some time, Mrs. Julian put Jane in possession with all her family. Mrs. Lloyd soon after came, and both of them bestowed upon the worthy woman and her family, many demonstrations of respect and tenderness, and promises to second the views of her benefactors.

Mr. Goldsmith, having bestowed a reward of a handful of Gold upon Deborah, given her proper instructions, and promised to remember her hereafter, rode over to Carmarthen, and going to the place appointed, found Jones and Mr. Jenkins heartily jaded with their unsuccessful search over the whole town. Goldsmith concealed his secret till he had taken leave of Mr. Jones, who returned to his house in more sorrow, on account of his now confirmed loss, than could have been imagined of a man of his temper; but though his cousin pitied him, he did not choose to make him his confidant in the late happy adventure.

Notwithstanding, it was now near 12 at night, as the weather was fine, the two friends

friends resolved to return to St. Ismael; and, on the road, Goldsmith acquainted Jenkins with every thing that had occurred. That good man, one while adored the goodness of providence, at another expressed his wonder and astonishment at the behaviour of Penry, and promised to join in every scheme for her reward. He was pleased with the punishment intended for Mrs. Jones, and finally the whole story deserved to be noted *aureis literis*, (with letters of gold) as a remarkable instance of the watchful care of Heaven over distressed and persecuted innocence.

When they arrived they found Mr. Lloyd, his Lady, and Mrs. Julian, in the children's apartment, (who were all in a profound sleep in the beds appointed for them) wonderfully pleased with the conversation of the sensible Mrs. Penry, who had been relating to them the story of her misfortunes. At the entrance of the gentlemen, all mutually felicitated each other on the late happy event, when Mr. Jenkins, at length, bestowed due praises on Penry, told her she had by her honesty secured the favour of the Almighty, and that as she had first of all sought *the kingdom of God and his righteousness*, every temporal blessing would be added thereto. Upon

on hearing her name, soon after, mentioned, he started and exclaimed, "Gracious Heaven!—Penry! sure not the relict of that worthy, sensible, and religious man, James Penry, the exciseman of Llangadock, with whom, heretofore, I have spent so many improving moments?"

Jane, the tears trickling down her cheeks, looking at the Person with a tender respect, answered modestly, "Indeed, Sir, I am the unfortunate widow of that good man, whose death involved his family in poverty and distress!" "Poor creature," Jenkins replied, "I do not wonder now at thy virtue; thy husband was my friend, and in vain I have inquired, for a long time, the place to which his family retired after his decease—I should have endeavoured to have lessened the afflictions under which he must have left them; but providence has graciously effected those purposes in another way, and it shall be my care to co-operate with my friends in their good and kind intentions in thy favour and thy children's. But had you no friends, no relations whose hearts were melted to compassion at thy misfortunes? Not one that would lend a relieving hand to the fatherless? Not one tender eye that inclined to make the *widow's*
heart

heart sing for joy; the widow of a man of humanity, who never withheld his help from the miserable as far as his ability reached?—Not one? *O tempora! mores!*”

“Alas! Sir,” Jane answered, “however my husband was esteemed living, I found few friends after his death. What little benefits I received were bestowed in such a manner, as to make the situation I am thus humanely relieved from, far preferable to the obligation. I therefore found out, after some time, the little cottage, whence I just have been rescued, and by the hardest labours preserved existence to myself and children. We had our healths continued to us, and, if our meals were scanty, our vestments sordid, and our habitation homely, I was content, as I lived in the continual presence of a merciful Being, who sets up and casts down whom he pleases, and whose wise purposes are inscrutable to human eyes and understandings. And, behold, Sir, my firm reliance upon providence, my patient submission to its decrees, are rewarded. These good gentlemen have snatched me from all my calamities; they have most favourable intentions towards my poor infants; and happy if I can, in any way, by the sincerest attachment, by the most assiduous diligence

diligence and fidelity, in the department I am placed in, at least shew I am not of an ungrateful mind! May divine providence shower down blessings on them and their families for their beneficence!"

Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Julian were wonderfully delighted with the good woman, whose better habit, had been already provided, in profusion, from the wardrobe of the first mentioned lady, and she now appeared quite a different person from her former self. They both desired her to esteem them as her sincere friends: Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Lloyd were charmed with the good they had done, and Mr. Jenkins rejoiced he should have his old friend's widow and offspring so near him. In short, it was near break of day before all parties retired to rest, and late in the morning before they rose from sleep, all the friendly guests staying at Mr. Goldsmith's until the next day, to finish the arrangements they had begun to make.

When they met at breakfast, Mr. Goldsmith called all his servants in, one by one, and confided the secret to them, of the children's arrival, strictly enjoining them, never to mention it to any one; an injunction they not only promised, but resolved religiously to obey: They loved their mas-

ter too well to give him any pain. Mrs. Julian's office of nurse was devolved upon Mrs. Penry, whose children were also to continue with her, and she was to have the assistance of one of the maids who was constantly to attend her: A private part of the garden and orchard, to which they could pass from their chambers, was allotted for airing and recreating the little folks; Mrs. Lloyd promised to see them often, and Mrs. Julian, with that Lady, were to superintend the whole business. Thus every thing was settled, and the utmost care taken that Mrs. Jenkins should know nothing of the children's being found, at the desire of Mr. Jenkins, and with the approbation of every one present; who well knew her malevolent disposition and her intimacy with Mrs. Jones.

We must now return to Carmarthen, and relate how affairs were situated there.

During the absence of her husband, the last time, Mrs. Jones, building upon the conceit that Margaret had successfully carried the children to the place directed, made herself perfectly easy, and triumphed in her mind; for she imagined all search was over, and resolved to stand to her former story, whatever was the consequence. Yet as she could not dispense with a show

of affliction, she was obliged, she thought, to appear inconsolable on account of the loss she had sustained; therefore, she did not, for some time, think it expedient to go abroad or to return the many visits of condolance that had been made to her on the occasion; at the same time she longed to hear from Penry, to secure her silence by a proper reward, and to make an excursion to the place she supposed the children carried to, that she might send Billy far away, never to disturb her more, having already laid a plan, in her head, for conveying him to the plantations. However, as guilt is ever suspicious, and she knew Mr. Goldsmith thought badly of her, she resolved to defer either sending or writing to Margaret or Penry, till she could with decency go abroad herself. Mean time she resumed her command over her husband, frequently abused her cousin, and beat her youngest son for being like him; at the same time fondly imagining she should soon be restored to his good graces, when time had in some measure calmed his mind.

Thus a whole month rolled away, when she suffered herself to be persuaded to divert her feigned melancholy by going abroad, and, upon her first visit, did not fail

to call at Griffiths, Margaret's husband, to see if his account of her departure tallied with the orders she had given her: But here she was extremely puzzled; the honest man informed her she had spent one day with him, two or three with some of her cronies; that, to his great grief, she was drunk all the time, had endeavoured to persuade him to go to Ireland with her, as she had lost her nursery, and told him she had money enough to settle him in business there: That, upon his refusal, she left him, in a resentful manner, saying she was going to Tenby, on some business for her mistress, and that she had never seen her since; but supposed she still remained there in discharge of the trust reposed in her.

This account made her ponder much; she considered the time Margaret must have staid, after she received her directions, and trembled at the danger she had run of the search reaching Penry's cottage; but did not doubt, she had been time enough too, to obey her; and as to her feint of talking to her husband of going to Ireland, she imagined it was intended only as such: Yet again, when she remembered that she had, in her consternation,

given her near eight guineas, beside silver, and the easiness with which she came into her machinations about the children, she was apprehensive of the consequences; for bad people seldom like to trust each other too far. In short, she resolved to go privately to Penry's cottage the next morning, where she made no doubt all would be cleared up to her satisfaction.

C H A P. IX.

Which is still more interesting.

IN this resolution she returned home from her visits, and remained, in doleful mood, till after dinner the next day, when she ordered the chaise to be got ready, by her deaf driver, and under pretence of an airing, after being driven from place to place, for an hour or two, she directed him to put forward toward the place of inquiry.

The rattling of the chaise, brought Deborah Price to the door, before it came to the hut, who soon perceived a female in it, doubted not but it was Mrs. Jones, and prepared herself to follow the commands she had received from Mr. Goldsmith.

As soon as the chaise stopped, the anxious lady sprung from it, and bolting in, asked, with an eager accent, for Jane Penry, and her children, casting a look of amazement all around her, at not immediately perceiving them before her.

"Madam," the faithful wench answered, "I am under great concern when I

acquaint you that Jane (with all the children) went with an intent to visit my mother, who lives at some distance, leaving me to receive any messages that came; but I find she never was there, and tho' it is a long while since, I have heard neither tale or tidings of them—I hope no mischief has happened to them:—She, indeed, often talked of being tired of living here, and of going to her own country, somewhere in the West of England, and I find she took all her clothes, and what little money she had, with her. She also was often talking of the two nurse-children she had, saying she loved them so well that she was resolved to carry them with her wherever she went. Probably she got a lift in some carriage, in town, or procured a passage in some vessel to her friends. This is all the account I can give you, madam. I shall shut up the house if she does not return in a day or two, and go over to my mother's, who has great occasion for my attendance."

Had a dagger transfixed her heart, Mrs. Jones could scarce have shewn more sense of pain, whilst Deborah was telling this tale; her eyes were cast wildly round, the tears stood in them, and, at length, rolled, in big, round drops, down her cheeks;

sighs

sighs burst from her bosom, a cold sweat bedewed her limbs, and with a great shriek she fell into a real swoon; a state which she had lately so often artfully feigned.

Deborah was quite surprised; for tho' prepared for anger and violent expressions, she did not imagine Mrs. Jones would be so deeply affected. She ran for water, holloed out for the assistance of the servant, who however could not hear her, and was near twenty minutes using every endeavour to recover her before the lady came at all to herself; when she did, she exclaimed in disordered and interrupted accents, "Gone!—Penry gone!—and all the children!—Lucy too!—oh! barbarous mother!—my devices are all turned upon my own head!—Could I think! oh! how *could* I—that my wickedness would prosper!—Poor innocents!—where—where are ye carried too!"—Then recollecting herself, a flood of tears succeeded, and a mortification and horror in her looks that are inexpressible.

For some moments after she remained silent; it was a silence more expressible than words, as all the horror of her crime, and the dread of its consequences presented themselves before her eyes. She had, for
base

base and fordid purposes, conceived a cruel design against one poor infant; she was punished in the loss of her own; she had invented a story of their being stolen from her; she had triumphed in her baseness; and now she was uncertain of the fate of her daughter; she had attempted to deceive others; but had been wofully deceived by her own instruments. At length waking, as it were, from a dream, and seeing Deborah in tears, who well knew the meaning of all this, she recurred to her last question, and, indeed, the only one she could now propose. "My dear," says she, softening her voice, and endeavouring to compose herself, "was there no woman, one Margaret M'Allister, or Griffiths, that came lately to Jane to fetch the children away from her?" "No, madam," the wench replied, "no such person ever came here; for if she had I must have seen her, having never been from the spot since the day after the children were left here: But, for I perceive you are the lady they belong to, if it will be any satisfaction, I can assure you the pretty creatures were well, the last time I saw them, and Jane seemed to be very fond of them. She now and then, used to mutter somewhat of some ill-usage designed to one or both

of them, and that she would carry them to the farthest part of the kingdom rather than part from them: So that, wherever they are, you may depend upon it they will have equal care taken of them with her own.

These words again, delivered in a modest and grave tone, more and more affected her; but grown now more cautious, she kept her thoughts to herself, cursed Margaret, in her heart, who now, she made no doubt had deceived her, and herself for being the dupe of her own cunning. She found further inquiries would be to no purpose, whereupon, begging Deborah to send her any intelligence of Penry she might receive, leaving her her address, and making her a small present, she flung herself into her chaise, and ordered her driver to bend his course homewards, where she might be at liberty to reflect over this strange occurrence, to indulge her grief without witnesses, and to form some plan or other for her future behaviour.

Arrived at home, she, under pretence of illness, shut herself up in her chamber. Her affliction for the loss of her daughter was now sincere, and made cruel haycock in her breast; at the same time that the
tear

fear of the discovery of her guilt, by some unforeseen means, through Penry or otherwise, harrowed up her very soul. The same affection and honesty which engaged her to secrete the children, might, when her money was exhausted, direct her to find out her cousin Goldsmith, of whose connexion with Billy she too well remembered she had told her the whole story. What to do, which way to turn herself, she could not devise; one moment she resolved to tell her husband the whole affair, and her motives, and get him to interpose with her cousin in her behalf, that means might be found out to bring Penry and her family back again, wherever they were: But shame, for as yet there was no heartfelt repentance, deterred her. Upon the whole, she resolved to let matters remain as they were, and to employ, privately, every means in her own power, to get tidings of Penry, and, in the interim, to follow the same conduct he had hitherto, which was (and she could do it now without grimace) to continue her grief for her loss, and to persist in her former assertions.

C H A P. X.

Declaration which causes a visit; with what passed therein: Terrible situation of a seeming Penitent.

MR. Goldsmith and Mr. Lloyd were, soon after this transaction, informed by a messenger from Deborah, that Mrs. Jones had been with her; whereupon they sent a chaise to bring her over to St. Ismael, that they, and the rest of their cabinet counsel, might hear from her own mouth, what had passed in the extraordinary visit. Accordingly she was introduced into Mrs. Penry apartment, where they were assembled, related every word with precision, and was applauded by all present for her behaviour. Various were the reflections made upon what they heard; but none of them pitied the subject of their discourse: they thought her punishment just, and finally resolved she should continue in her state of uncertainty till the children were advanced to such an age as would render it difficult, or impossible for her to recognize them.

Jane, before Deborah departed, made
her

her a present of all she had left in her cottage; and such other favours were bestowed upon her, as put her and her mother in a situation they could never have aspired to from their labours: She promised not to divulge the secret she was intrusted with, and returned to her mother, delighted and pleased with the respect shewn her, and having received an invitation to come every now and then, to see the family and children.

Mrs. Jones, for six months after, made every inquiry in her power, by letters and messengers, to all parts of the West of England, and in short, every where else, with a proper description of the woman and children; but in the most private manner imaginable, concealing her own name, and employing that of her husband's chief clerk, which she might safely do, as he was gone upon affairs of trade to the West Indies. But all the answers were unfavourable, as well they might, and, at length, she left off further search, and made herself as easy as possible in the loss of her daughter: Severe pangs would sometimes agitate her breast, to which Mr. Goldsmith's total disregard, of her and her family, and the thoughts of her being justly suspected by him, not a little contri-

contributed: But no dawn of virtue, no real remorse of conscience yet touched her heart: She had not the least conception of what was right and fit; her own private loss, the being deceived by her accomplices, and her scheme having, by that means, proved abortive, were the only considerations that gave her pain. As to Jones, the hurry of business, the eager pursuit of gain, left him no room to think of any thing else; at first he had some feeling on account of his child, but it soon wore off, and without torturing himself with those thousand nameless terrors and fears, which only mind susceptible of the most delicate and refined sensations are capable of, he contented himself, that wherever she was, she must have food and raiment of some kind or other, and that it was not unlikely chance might, at length, restore her to them. As he was rich, and had now only two children, and little probability of having more, he looked upon the Goldsmith estate with no very hungry eye; though he could not help thinking he would still make his youngest son his heir. He sometimes met him at fairs and markets, and as he found his carriage not altered towards himself, he behaved still with the utmost respect to him, tho' he

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thought

thought his wife injured by his suspicions ; yet as he could not, he knew by experience, combat his arguments against her, he seldom mentioned her before him.

But the hour was not far distant, when her guilt and baseness too plainly must appear, and by a means she had no suspicion of ; so as to render her obnoxious to all the virtuous and humane of her acquaintance, and to cover her with shame and disgrace ; a second and more severe punishment due to her intended crimes.

Two years were now passed away, in which little Billy and Lucy, by their growth and improvement, charmed all their friends, when one morning, Mr. Goldsmith was called from the nursery, to examine two culprits, a man and a woman, who were accused of having broke open a house at Kidwelly, the preceding night. He heard the accusation, with his usual humanity and penetration ; but the more he surveyed the features of the woman, the more he was persuaded he had somewhere seen her before ; but could not recollect where : As their crime was sufficiently proved, he was going to sign their mittimus, when the woman, trembling, besought his worship to favour her with a word or two in private. The remark he had

had before made would have induced him to grant her request, even had he not supposed she wanted to inform against some of her accomplices, and therefore ordering her to follow him, into an adjacent room, and shutting the door, he asked her what she had to say. After a deal of confusion, she told him her name was Margaret, Mrs. Jones's nurse, who had the honour to be sometime at his house with Miss Lucy. Goldsmith, upon this declaration, was very attentive; he had long inquired after this woman in vain, supposing she could give him some confirmation of her mistress's base designs, as she was with her at the time of the pretended robbery; therefore he bid her say on; when the infamous creature informed him of all that passed between her mistress and herself, on the day they took the children to Carmarthen, and of all the designs and fears of Mrs. Jones, her giving her money to carry the children to Tenby; but falsely ascribed her running away to her compunction and remorse, which prevailed over her attachment to her mistress, and induced her to go to Ireland. She owned she had been a wicked creature; but hoped his worship would have pity of her, and shew her as much mercy as he could.

Goldsmith was astonished at the scene of iniquity, which was worse than he had ever presumed to think it was, and silently blessed God who had so miraculously, as it were, preserved his innocent child from such merciless hands. His discernment, however, convinced him that the wretch had concealed, as much as possible, her own iniquity, and as much as possible exaggerated that of her mistress.

He told her, her crime was of such a nature, and so clearly proved, as to render it impossible to screen her from punishment, could he be brought to enter into such a view; but as she had confessed the matter he wanted proof of, he would take care she should have every comfort possible, in goal, if she would sign her confession of the fact, she had related, as it was upon a peculiar account, necessary for his own reputation, and the conviction of some persons; for though he had evidence in his hands that amounted to the same, it was such as he did not choose to make use of. He then gave her some money, drew up her relation, read it to her, and she willingly swore to the truth of it.

Of this wretch suffice it to say, that she and her accomplice were tried, the next assizes, both of them found guilty, sentenced

ced and executed, Margaret shewing much penitence, at her exit, for the crimes of her mispent life.

Mr. Goldsmith, armed with this confession, resolved to pay a visit, once more, at Carmarthen; which, indeed, as he had declared, was in some respects necessary for his own justification: The town and country in general blamed him for his behaviour to Mrs. Jones; they thought the loss of her own child was a sufficient proof, his suspicions were unjust, and he could not reply to their clamours without disclosing a secret he was resolved still to preserve: Besides, he could not, so great was his humanity, think without horror of the condition of his cousin; unconvicted she remained still in a state of wickedness, dreadful to think of, and was adding, every day, by her concealment, and the untruths she told consequent thereto, to her own guilt and the anger of heaven. He hoped, therefore, when she was fully detected, she might have opportunity for sincere repentance, once more become entitled to the blessing of providence, and the happiness he hereafter intended her, in the restoration of her daughter. These were the motives for what he was now doing, and Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Jenkins, by his desire,

accompanied him, to be witness to what passed at Mr. Jones's.

So unusual a visit, made early in the morning, though it greatly surprised Mr. Jones, yet gave him pleasure; to which the more than ordinary respect the three visitors shewed him, greatly contributed; His wonder was increased, however, when, after having taken some refreshment, Goldsmith thus addressed him. "My dear Jones, I can now, with certainty, give you the name of the person, by whose artifices we have been so long deprived of our children; but let my cousin your wife make one of the company; I think it rather more imports her to be acquainted therewith than any one present." Jones, overjoyed at what he heard, and not doubting but Goldsmith would clear his wife from any concern in the matter, and was come to acknowledge his suspicions ill grounded, flew to his wife's apartment, who was diverting herself with her elder son.

She no sooner heard what guests waited her coming, than her countenance fell, paleness overspread her face, and her knees, tottered under her; for well she feared her baseness was discovered: But what could she do; there was no time to
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resolve upon any thing else but obedience ; she was compelled to seem to believe with her husband, that her cousin was come to clear her from her aspersions, and to acknowledge his error ; but she rather thought inly that the children were found, and that Jane Penry was ready to appear as an evidence against her : She three or four times uttered the ejaculations, “ God bless me ! — What in the name of God can they want with me ! ” but the sacred word was soon stifled on her tongue, and, bad as her heart was, she looked upon it as one not proper from her mouth, mumbling afterwards, “ God forgive me ! ” Such a situation was worse to her than death itself, and she followed her husband in a kind of despair, as a wretch exposed to bitter calamities, sometimes dares the utmost rigours of fate, the sooner to escape from his miseries by death.

Mr. Goldsmith and his friends discovered her situation at her first appearance, and severe as they were in the justice they had hitherto, and intended further to inflict upon her, they really compassionated her condition, tho’ they abhorred the occasion of it : And the tender and benign heart of Goldsmith sunk within at the reflection of what he was going to say, and the treatment

ment he thought it necessary to bestow upon her.

She dropped a kind of half courtesy, looking upon the ground, and seating herself on a chair, faintly asked what they had to impart to her. Goldsmith with much solemnity shutting the door, answered her in the following words: "You can be no stranger, madam, to the pain and inquietude you have caused me, for some years, by your concealment of poor Billy; and in pursuing your designs against that innocent, how heaven has permitted you to be involved in the same misfortune, by the loss of your daughter; for, in consequence of the intelligence I have here in my hand, (holding out Margaret's confession) I have sought after the children at Mrs. Penry's cottage, where I now find you left them, in vain. You have added, for so long a time, to your intended wickedness, by a constant and uniform denial of what you have been, upon good grounds suspected of, by which I fear you have more and more forfeited the favour of providence, and are living, every moment, in the actual commission of sin. Here, madam, is a proof of what I advance, and I desire you, cousin Jones, to read this paper; it will, without doubt, astonish you,

as it did me; and must every body who hears it."

Jones eagerly took the paper, and read it aloud; but before he had got to the end, his hands shook (insensible as he naturally was to any thing in which his interest was not someway or other concerned) his tongue faltered, and he could go no farther: upon which Goldsmith, seeing his disorder, took the paper from him, and finished the reading of it, waiting some moments afterwards in silence, looking earnestly and with scrutinizing eye at Mrs. Jones, whose husband's eyes were also directed toward's her, with a cast of the utmost anguish, mingled with as much anger as he yet could venture to discover.

It is impossible to attempt a description of what, at this solemn moment, passed in the lady's imagination. *Rocks and tortures, were beds of down, were wafting ease to this!* The tears streamed plentifully from her eyes, which continued depressed to the ground; a cold sweat bedewed her limbs; she shook through every part, and the very chair she sat on rattled under her: so that all the witnesses of this scene, were melted even to tears. Goldsmith could bear no longer; but looking upon her silence and agitation as the strugglings of a mind oppressed

oppressed with conviction, and agitated between pride, shame, and repentance; he resumed his discourse:

“Poor woman,” he cried, “thou art really an object of pity rather than of resentment, at present! Ah! what thorns are wisely strewn by providence, in all the too flattering paths of vice, in every path that deviates from the road of virtue, truth, and goodness! Of this deluded creature, thou art now a woful example. Thou, who upon imaginary suggestions and conclusions, hast raised thy hand against infant innocence, hast steeled thy breast to every softer feeling of thy sex, nay to all the tender fondnesses of a parent—and all, from the precarious view of some small loss accruing to thy family. Against an infant too, robbed by the awful destination of providence, of its fond parents, of every connexion in life, that could secure it from misery, want and final destruction. But if this had no force upon a base and hardened mind—its almost miraculous preservation, the love heaven had inspired me towards it, must, upon cool reflection, have convinced you, you was acting against an innocent, that providence meant to preserve, and, as much as in you lay, was counter-acting its designs. An awful, a

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torturing consideration this!—And heaven has punished you with the loss of an amiable daughter, since which you cannot have enjoyed peace.—Does not—I see it does—thy bosom heave with anguish unutterable, at the shocking idea of what these children, one of them at least, are now suffering; who, if not otherwise afflicted, must experience every want and every distress that poverty and wretchedness can produce, and are now perhaps, by the honest creature (who, I understand, fled with horror from being a partner in your scheme, and to save the orphan from, worse effects of your hatred) held up to the compassion of strangers, with supplicating voice, for that sustenance, that bread, you have so hard-heartedly robbed them of. The child of thy own bearing, thy lovely little Lucy, an equal darling with my Billy, of my heart—canst thou think of her, without almost cursing thyself, covered with sordid rags, pale, with dying hallow eyes, those eyes that sparkled like diamonds, exposed to all the dire effects of hunger,—unhoused, unshielded, unfriended, become an object to move the hardest breast?—Oh! let the repentant tear descend—but above all, let the heaving sigh ascend thy bosom, till with a clean heart and uplift-

uplifted hands, thou canst—if not alas! too late—recover the favour, the protection of that Being, by whom thou now seemest abandoned: Haply, by his merciful assistance, we may one time or other see again—though it is much to be doubted, these unfortunate, wandering babes, if death has not already closed their eyes, and an eternal sleep shielded them from the further miseries they might be subject to—But to make yourself worthy of this blessing, you must sincerely repent of your crime, you must become a new creature in heart and life, and darest all those vile and sordid appetites that have been the cause of such a woeful fall from virtue.—Then, and not till then, you will recover the good opinion of your friends—of your husband—who cannot, who will not now look upon you, but with eyes of contempt and detestation. As to your motives to your late conduct, they were beneath a rational creature, even had they been well founded. You abound—ah! how unworthily!—with all the conveniencies, nay, all the superfluities of this frail and transitory life, even beyond your neighbours—what a wretched return, you have made for those blessings!—You have hopeful children, and a husband of the fairest character
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and most irreproachable behaviour in his concerns in trade and commerce, and you enjoyed that most invaluable of all blessings, a good state of health. But, it should seem, the little pittance I, through the favour of providence, possess, was in some danger, as you imagined, of reverting to a child I seem so fond of: What then, am not I master of my own—and, however I might provide for him, could you think me a stranger to the natural rights of consanguinity? Did my indulgence of my affection, directly shut my eyes to the claim of justice, that justice due to my nearest relations, to my dear boy, your youngest son, in whose favour I always had the kindest intentions, I bless God, who has so mercifully prospered my affairs, that I have sufficient to gratify all the moderate demands I have or ever shall bring upon myself. Therefore, you see all your motives were founded upon delusion, the delusion, of a mind, of which the evil one had too evidently taken the possession. Nay, my fondness for my poor adopted son, was too presumptuously, I own, directed to the future emolument of your children: I pleased myself (but you have rendered it all in vain) that the lovely boy and your Lucy, by being brought up together

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gether, might imbibe a mutual affection, and by their future union, preserve in your family, their descendants, even that part of my fortune I intended for him. Ah! how have you cruelly cut short all my hopes, and destroyed the fancied joys my imagination had indulged! Think, cousin, in time, of your dreadful situation; once more endeavour to recover the favour of the Almighty, without which all the affluence and honours of the world may be counted as nothing, and will only make the pangs of another life, of misery and torment, still more dreadful!"

During this speech, Mrs. Jones not once lifted up her eyes, her agitation still continuing, and, before the last sentence was pronounced, swooned away, and would have fallen upon the floor, but that Mr. Lloyd caught her in his arms, and with the assistance of her husband, conveyed her to a couch, which stood at some distance from her, where her convulsions were so violent, as to call for the immediate aid of the surgeon, who came to her relief, and, when she was a little recovered, ordered her to be conveyed to bed, where, by her husband's permission, the good and tender Jenkins implored the divine Being to visit her, to turn her heart, to preserve her

her life, and restore her health, in an extempore prayer, which wonderfully moved all present, and impressed better ideas on Mrs. Jones than she had long harboured.

Mr. Goldsmith and his friends staid till all danger was over, conversing with Mr. Jones, who could hardly hold up his head, he was so confused at the late representation of his wife's crime, and so struck with what his cousin had declared, though that gentleman and his friends said and did all they could to inspire him with more assurance. Goldsmith shewed a great deal of regard for the children, particularly the youngest, and promising a continuance of his friendship and affection to poor Jones, was going to remount with his companions, when a tender suggestion started into his mind, of taking leave of Mrs. Jones, as an encouragement to her return to virtue; a suggestion which his two friends highly applauded and for which Mr. Jones was near smothering him in his embraces.

It being thought improper to accompany him to her chamber, he went alone, and, first asking her servant how her mistress did stepping to her bed-side, and withdrawing the curtain, asked her the same

question in his usual good natured tone of voice: Adding, I hope, cousin, God will so touch your heart, as to renew in you a right spirit, which will not only give me the greatest satisfaction; but procure you a return of that friendship, of which you always had a very particular share.

The poor woman, struck to the soul with this goodness and generosity, burst into a flood of tears, and exclaimed, "Ah! Sir, you have made me hate myself—I shall never more enjoy happiness!"—Goldsmith, delighted with what he heard, took her hand, and pressing it between his own, returned—"Gracious God! I thank thee—hate your former self, my recovered cousin; but rise from this bed of contrition and honest remorse in a situation of mind, that will draw down blessings on your family, and restore you to my affections such as I always wished you to be.—You are punished enough, my dear; but if you repent, trust in providence that it will restore us what we have lost, in his own good time: Farewel—endeavour to compose yourself to that repose, which is now so necessary for you."

So saying, he went joyfully out of the chamber, and gladdened his friends with the relation of what had passed between him and
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and Mrs Jones. Jones himself was so affected at Goldsmith's kindness, that he was profuse in his acknowledgments; he accompanied them a mile from the town, on their way home, leaving them in a manner that justified their good opinion of the honest merchant; who, though he expressed much concern about the children, was not less desirous of recovering his wife's health and reputation.

As they rode along, the Squire and the parson could not suppress the expressions of their satisfaction at hearing Mr. Goldsmith's late oration, so calculated to touch the passions, and to excite the horror and repentance of the person it was designed for. Already they all felicitated themselves upon the happiness they should confer upon Mrs. Jones, in the future discovery of the children to her; but resolved it should not be done until some years had convinced them she was really an altered woman, and till the children had arrived to an age, and made such a progress in their education, as should increase the satisfaction she and her husband must feel upon the joyful and interesting occasion.

Arrived at home, Mr. Goldsmith and his friends imparted to Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs.

Julian, and Mrs. Penry, all that had occurred in their visit; sometimes those worthy creatures were melted to pity, and anon Mrs. Jones's baseness was thought not sufficiently punished, by what she had already, or might further suffer from the flurs upon her reputation, and the loss of her child. However, they all agreed in the wisdom and justice of yet keeping the recovery of Lucy and Billy, a secret to all but themselves.

CHAP.

C H A P. XI.

Character of an amiable Youth, and a beautiful young Lady, with other matters.

SEVERAL years elapsed, after these incidents, in which Billy and Lucy displayed so many valuable qualities of mind, and such blooming graces of person, as charmed all their friends. He was, already, by the care taken of his education, master, in an uncommon degree, of the Latin and French languages, and Lucy began to testify those endowments which the polite and sensible Mrs. Lloyd had endeavoured to adorn her with. Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Jenkins, pleasingly went over all their former knowledge, in their instruction, and they had made considerable progress in geography and mixed mathematics, the study of which was intended as a kind of diversion to them, whilst all the happy partakers of their concealment also attended those gentlemen's delightful lectures. They had yet seen only these friends, Mr. Goldsmith's family, and diverted themselves in that part of the garden allotted to their use. Sometimes, indeed,

indeed, under the cover of night, they had been conveyed to Mr. Lloyd's, where they spent a week at a time with that harmonious pair, and drank in those wise rules and maxims that flowed from Mrs. Lloyd's tongue, and Lucy once staid near six months with her, that under her more immediate eye, she might be formed to female gentility and prudence. They were now entered their 16th year, and their natural temper began to be very discoverable. Lucy was gay and lively; she looked and spoke with a vivacity that was agreeable and entertaining; she played to admiration upon the harpsichord and spinnet, which she accompanied with a voice that was touchingly soft and melodious. Her person would have conveyed transport to the coldest bosom; the exact symmetry and proportion it discovered, the harmony of her features, the delicacy of her motions, the ten thousand beauties that veiled themselves under every action and look, were beheld, with admiration, by her sage companions. Her hair, of an auburn colour, shaded the finest eyes that perhaps were ever seen; her rising bosom and taper hands and fingers, white as the lily itself, yielded a promise of perfection, that they contemplated with rapture:

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But she had a levity and thoughtlessness, that often disgusted: For a moment she was absorbed in a particular favourite pursuit be it reading, working, or what not, and the next she returned from it, jaded and fatigued, and seeking some fresh object of attention. In short, her little fluttering heart, and busy hands and eyes, were always in motion; her griefs and her joys, were expressed by sudden and violent efforts, by fits and starts; at hearing of, or reading an affecting or calamitous story, deep melancholy seized her; she cried; nay she even sobbed:—all this for a moment; and one would have thought her the most distressed of human Beings; But the next moment all traces of sorrow passed away, her face was illuminated by joyous smiles; and any little mirthful incident was sufficient to change the solemnity of her countenance. Yet, with all this fluctuation of temper, she had a valuable heart, tender, compassionate, and affectionate, and she loved her benefactors and her other friends, and had a fund of gratitude for all their kind offices; for as all traces of her parents were worn from her mind, she had been taught to think herself dependent upon Mr. Goldsmith entirely, as being the orphan of some distant relations.

tions. Mrs. Julian and Mrs. Lloyd studied, by every prudent method, to render her more staid, and to check that prevailing inclination to be admired, which, in common with the too giddy part of her sex, she had fallen into: But as they judged it impossible to conquer nature, they found the only remedy left was to turn her disposition to the most salutary uses they could; and as she loved to be admired, to make her a just object of admiration.

As to Billy, he already gave promises of being a very accomplished youth: His person was rather superior in height, and formed, by indulgent nature, so proportionably, as to exhibit, at once, a finished picture, and a proper machine for the display of health and the exercise of labour and study; the pure blood that flowed in his veins, planted roses in his cheeks, and gave a firmness to all his limbs, that indicated strength and vigour: But if his person was faultless, his amiable mind made him still dearer to his rational friends: He was resolute and courageous; yet inoffensive and peaceable: He had already, in imitation of his foster father, acquired an amazing government over his passions, and reasoned with a manly and nervous strength upon such things as were studiously submitted

ted to his judgment. He had the most sacred regard to what was right and fit, in all his actions, and had yet never given the least trouble or distaste to any one. If his soul became tender, and melted upon any appearance of calamity; yet his actions alone betrayed it, and every little kindness it had hitherto fallen in his way to do to the servants, or any others, within his yet small circle of acquaintance, was as studiously concealed as it was cheerfully performed: If he was merry, it was the mirth of wisdom, and if in a melancholy mood, it was neither attended with gloom or moroseness. He took the instructions given him, with an avidity, and promptitude, that filled his preceptors with astonishment; the first perception he had of any problem in Euclid, any difficulty in any authors he read, was equal to a demonstration. He played, with exquisite perfection, on all the instruments Mr. Goldsmith was possessed of, and was never idle, nor suffered a vacant moment to seduce him to inattention: Even his sports were directed to improve his mind, or his constitution; he already could wield the quarter staff, and at the small sword, Mr. Goldsmith had pronounced him his master. Mr. Jenkins had early cultivated in his mind

mind a veneration for the scriptures, and for the duties and offices of religion: He was domestic chaplain, almost, to Mr. Goldsmith, and read the sacred oracles and prayed in the family, with a fervor and pathos that was really edifying. He had yet only understood that he was the deserted son of a friend of his benefactor, and was supported and educated by the bounty of that gentleman. This had been tenderly hinted to him by Mr. Jenkins, at a distance; but it did not seem to give him any pain. That clergyman was amazed to hear from the excellent youth, the following sensible words in return: "Dear Sir, how good providence has been to me, that in robbing me of one parent, it has bestowed upon me so many: What spurs will this knowledge add to my gratitude and good behaviour:—I till now loved my dear father, as he has really been to me, yourself, Mr. Lloyd and the rest of my friends, more on account of your virtue and amiableness of character, than from any motive of self interest: But now I must mingle my veneration and esteem, with grateful resentments of heart for all your amazing goodness to me, a poor unfriended youth, that, but for such regard, had been exposed to misery, vice and folly, perhaps:

perhaps; or at least to ignorance, which I now look upon as one of the most grievous of misfortunes. Oh! my dearest friend, with what delight shall I study to repay the vast debt I owe! What submissive duty towards my father, towards you, to the excellent Mr. Lloyd and his lady! What tender attachment to Mrs. Julian and Mrs. Penry, who shielded my infant years! I want words to express the feelings of my heart! A heart that burns to make all the returns it can;—but alas! the only return I can at present make, is to adhere closely to your instructions, to copy the example set before me, and to endeavour to preserve the good opinion of those who have made me what I am, and without whom I very probably now should not have had a being.”

Here the softening youth wiped the tears that swam in his eyes, oppressed with the generous sentiments and the tender thoughts that filled his mind.

Mr. Jenkins, who looked at him, whilst he thus spoke, with a perfect and sincere delight, could not refrain the tears of joy that trickled down his honest face, and catching him in his arms, exclaimed—“My dear, my grateful, my all accomplished pupil!—Have I lived to be thus blessed,

to hear such words from thy lips, as make me fond and proud of thee, at the same instant!—No, my dear Billy, we are the obliged parties; Heaven has not only destined us to the pleasing task of forming thy mind and understanding; but has, by thus blessing our endeavours, repaid us to the full—rewarded us far beyond our deservings!—What was the duty of humane and rational beings, has been, by the divine parent of mankind, productive of that satisfaction that only a rational being can enjoy. Thou art above all our hopes and expectations!—Thou art surely designed to be an honour and a comfort to all thy friends, and a blessing to thy fellow creatures!” But to return:

His affection and dutiful behaviour to Mr. Goldsmith; that tenderness with which he performed all the offices of a child to a parent, his affable and condescending behaviour in the family, the gratitude he displayed to all his friends, had so riveted that gentleman's love to him, that he could scarce bear him a moment out of his sight. Though so young, he consulted him in all his affairs, and endeavoured to chase away that modesty, which would scarce allow him to differ in any point from him. He longed to have him more at large, to show

him the country, and to share the praises he knew must be every where bestowed upon him. For this purpose, he held a private council with his friends, and it was resolved Billy should be informed of his whole history, and the reason of his being restrained to such privacy for so many years: For though he had the liberty, with Lucy, of going into all parts of the house; yet, it was not without some semblance of surprise, that, upon the appearance of any stranger, they had always notice to retire to their respective apartments.

Lucy and Billy, brought up together from their infancy, had contracted a most tender affection for each other, tho' their dispositions were so very different. In their very infant state they were always nursed and attended in the same apartment; but when they had reached to about the 8th year of their age, separate rooms and separate beds were provided for them, tho' still they continued under the management of the females, and constantly eat and played together. As they advanced in years, all the oeconomy proper for their separate occasions was pursued; they then only saw each other at meal times, during the hours of instruction, in such sciences as they mutually pursued, and, now and

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then, in conversation with their friends. The favourite project of Mr. Goldsmith and his friends was not lost sight of, tho' the difference of temper, in the two objects of their care not a little puzzled them. They longed to discover a beginning affection in them, for each other, in which the heart might be alone concerned, and noticed already, with satisfaction, the anxiety, they expressed to see, and the regret they felt at any absence or separation from, each other. Billy the most accomplished being Lucy had ever seen; Lucy the loveliest maid, that could be any where contemplated; no wonder at their attachment: But there was as much difference in the display of that reciprocal attachment and fondness, as in their tempers and behaviour. Billy shewed his, by a constant attention to her pleasure and happiness, and was never at rest without procuring her some gratification: He enjoyed, with rapture inexpressible, the progress she had made in her education, and was the very first to find and point out every new display of her understanding and her beauty: He read to her the *Spectators*, and other polite books, and dwelt fondly on the observations she made. His veneration and respect for her increased with her years, and he

he already performed the part of a friend and a brother ; but never fell into any gross or childish familiarity. Lucy, on the contrary, though she really loved him, as much as innocence admitted, took all his kindness as her due, and looked upon it as a homage paid to her perfections, which no one could deny her, that had any knowledge of her superior form and talents. If any thing ailed him, indeed, she was serious and melancholy for a moment, but a smile from him would recal her to her former gaiety. She loved to pull, to teaze and romp with him, and notwithstanding his condescension to her, in every thing, she often complained of his gravity and seriousness. If he was or seemed to be affronted, indeed, at her little levities, she was uneasy till she had recovered his favour, and, in spite of nature, would be serious too, which always brought him to himself. Mr. Goldsmith shewed no difference in his manner of treating them ; but Billy's temper being most consonant to his own, he had secretly the greatest regard for him. Time, he and his friends imagined, would correct Lucy's flighty behaviour ; and when they beheld the contrary, still they pleased themselves with the thought, that the blending such contraries

together, would rather conduce to, than destroy matrimonial harmony and happiness.

At their consultation Mrs. Lloyd was pitched upon to let Billy into the history of himself; but it was agreed on all hands, that Lucy should still be kept in ignorance, as they could not depend upon her prudence or secrecy; she was open and communicative to a fault; had never yet concealed what passed in her own breast, and was little qualified, they thought, to be made the confidante of the secret of others.

Mr. Lloyd took an opportunity, one evening, to carry Billy with him to his house, with leave from his father, for his staying a week or a fortnight there; Lucy looked very grave when she heard it, and cried, "and pray, papa, let me go too; for I long to be with him there: I am tired with our garden; the same objects over and over again, are so mortifying; and I have not seen Mrs Lloyd for a long, long week past." Goldsmith smiled, and returned, "ah! my Lucy, own to me that the object you are going to lose, is what you would follow: I see through your thoughts, now, and will venture a wager that if Billy staid here, you would desire to stay

stay too; tell me you little slut, if I have not hit upon your secret?" "Indeed, my dear papa," returned Lucy, "you are master of it: I am so queer and so unkard without him, that I mope and drone myself to death: You have always, Sir, insisted upon my telling the truth, in cases where a prudent reserve was not necessary; and you must believe, though I am sometimes troublesome to Billy, that no place can be very agreeable to me without him."

The archness of her look, and the eye of tenderness she cast towards Billy, had the effect she wished upon him, at the same time that Goldsmith and Lloyd enjoyed what they perceived, and alternately folded her in their arms; whilst she, as conscious of having rather said too much, had her face all suffused with a crimson glow.

"My dear Sir," says Billy gravely, "though it is with reluctance I second a request which will deprive you of Miss Lucy's company; pray let her go with us, it will render my visit there more agreeable to me, and I am sure much more pleasing to Mr. Lloyd." "Why, my dear," Mr. Goldsmith returned, "I have

a particular design in detaining Lucy at this time ; but you shall not be long assured : Go, and return to us as soon as our friend can spare you."

This signification of his desire was enough ; they had never contradicted his views yet, in the smallest matter, and were upon this entirely acquiescent.

C H A P. XII

An interesting scene. State of Mrs. Jones and her family.

MRS. Lloyd received him with her usual goodness, and the Squire contrived every thing to make his sojourn with them pleasing; abstracted from that admiration and esteem her amiable qualities excited, Billy had a tender affection for a Lady, to whom he had such numerous obligations, and she loved Billy with a fondness little short of that of a mother, which love was greatly heightened by his engaging carriage, his uncommon talents, and his fine person. They contrived to amuse him with country sports, fishing, coursing, and hunting, in order to prepare him for tidings they feared would much affect his grateful sympathizing heart. The elegant library engrossed some of their hours, and visits to their neighbours and others; for there were in the vicinity numbers of polite and well bred people, who were not only conversible but eligible company.

Mr. Lloyd's elegant garden was almost
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insuled by a branch of the river Tovey, navigable for small vessels; over it he had a curious wooden bridge, of one arch, and on the centre of the bridge a summer house, from which there was an extensive prospect of the river and the Bristol channel, and, eastward and westward, as enlarged a view of the adjacent country. The ships might be seen, plowing the waves, and their unsteady masts bending before the gale. On the shores, the diligent fishermen were casting their nets for the scaly race; the face of the waters was illumined by the sun's reviving beams, and glittered with golden corruscations; the sky was cloathed in all its usual summer mildness of blue and purple and white; the fields and meads were decked with fresh and enlivening verdure, and adorned with ten thousand radiant flowers. The distant houses and cottages diversified the scene, the abodes of healthful toil and industry. The kine and the generous steed were cropping the grateful herbage, and the numerous flocks bleating here and there, seemed to enjoy with satiety the wise provision of providence. Innumerable of the feathered tribe swelled their artless notes on every bush and spray and seemed in exulting strains to pour forth their gratitude

titude to the benevolent author of all this profusion of blessings. Beneath, the garden, glowing with all the variegated gifts of Flora, refreshed the eye, almost tired with the charming and more distant prospect. Here art had not absurdly banished nature, but only served to set off to greater advantage her genuine beauties. The lawns, the slopes, the walks and alleys were directed not to injure but to preserve her; and what had been formed with the utmost skill, seemed to be the spontaneous gifts of the soil and situation. In this summer house Mr. Lloyd and his lady passed their choicest hours, when the weather would permit, and here she studiously, yet as by accident, conducted our orphan, as a situation, that by its variety of objects would afford some reflections which might naturally introduce what she had to say to him, without the formality of a direct address: It was very fortunate for her design, that after being seated some time, and contemplating the lovely scenes before them, the skies began to lour, the blackening clouds to shade the enlivening sun, the birds, fluttering, flew to covert, and the whole animal creation seemed crowding to shelter with fear and dread. The ships and boats now laboured with the rising storm,

storm, which soon blew with a violence, scarce conceivable at this season of the year; the very summer house was shaken, though built in the most durable and firm manner, with the strongest materials, and Mrs. Lloyd was preparing to fly to the house for better shelter, with her guest; but that an impetuous shower of rain somewhat abated the wind, and rendered their retreat too incommodious, and more dangerous than their stay. Billy, with all the coolness of a stoic, endeavoured to reason his benefactress out of her fears, and to inspire her with that courage which most of the sex are constitutionally deprived of: "Ah! my dear madam," said he, "how preferable is our situation to that of the poor wretches, in those vessels, who now must be in the utmost perturbation, confusion and distress, every moment expecting to be driven on the dreaded yet wished for shore: See with what industry they endeavour to avoid the inhospitable shock; their melancholy thoughts employed on the misery that must involve their distant families, and friends by the loss of themselves and their fortunes, perhaps, and in hasty, but sincere ejaculations recommending themselves ever and anon to the protection of the author and preserver

of Being. Nothing, my dear lady, affords such wholesome physic to the mind as contemplating the ills of life; nothing serves so much to wing our thoughts, our desires to a better and a future state, than the precariousness we discover in all earthly pursuits and gratifications, which are snatched from us in a moment. Behold before us a striking instance. Joyous and delighted with the distant, or perhaps immediate sight of their wished for ports, the longing crews of those vessels were pleasing themselves with the idea of seeing their endearing wives and tender offspring, surrounding them at their arrival, and tasting the hard-bought wages or emoluments of all their toils and labours. In a moment the pride of exultation sickens; they would be glad even to preserve life alone, and, stripped of every thing, get safe to shore, or run into some friendly creek for shelter. Ah! Madam, what shield have we to protect us from despair, but the certainty of a presiding providence, whose eye is over all, and, secure of whose favour and merciful protection, storms and tempests, shipwrecks, earthquakes, nay the *wreck of nature and the crush of worlds*, can give only momentary sensations of pain. Merciful, benevolent,

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but tremendous Being! protect all who are now labouring under calamity or distress! soften their afflictions! dispel their cares and fears, and wipe the hard-bound tear from the eye of sorrow! Shield, oh! shield this honoured woman and her husband from every surrounding evil! bless them with the choicest of thy blessings! and prove that virtue and goodness are thy peculiar care!"

By this time this exalted youth had come to this period, the storm was succeeded by a calm; the clouds dispersed; the cattle and flocks returned lowing and bleating to their pasture, the feathered inhabitants of the groves filled every glade with harmony, and all nature rejoiced, as it were, under the returning rays of the glorious luminary. Mrs. Lloyd, who had never been in such a situation with our orphan before, struck with his reflections, his manner, and his fervent and unaffected piety, looked on him with eyes in which admiration and mingled pleasure were visible: She thought she discovered in his countenance somewhat superior to the human race, and pressing him to her bosom, remained some minutes, as it were, entranced, whilst Billy, artlessly flinging his arm round her neck, bestowed upon her
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the undesigning carresses of innocence and affection.

At length she exclaimed, "My child, my son, tho' I have long known the progress you have made in every branch of your education, in the maxims of virtue and goodness; yet your mind has a fund of benevolence and gratitude, that really surprises me: Nature has beneficently bestowed more upon you than your tutors: Happy are we all, that you surpass, in your boyish days, whatever we could, in our most sanguine desires, expect even in years of maturity: Your whole life, your very existence, is a convincing proof that you are the favorite of heaven: Alas! I wanted not the late alarming occasion, to introduce what I came here on purpose to tell you: You who can express such fortitude and so just a sense of the miseries of others; you who, with such submission, adore the ways of providence, will never be too much affected or depressed with a story of calamity, in which you, yourself, are particularly concerned: Happy youth, consigned by the care of the Almighty to merciful hands, may all the days flow smoothly in uninterrupted felicity, and may I ever live in the contemplation of thy virtues! Had I a child of my own, I

could never more tenderly love him than I do you: You have no premier in my affections, but the man who esteems you as much as I do myself."

She suffered him not to reply, but in the delicate and elegant manner natural to her, entered immediately upon his story; informed him of the manner in which he was first discovered and restored to life by the good Mr. Goldsmith; the tenderness shewn him by that gentleman and Mrs. Julian; the infant, reciprocal affection of himself and Lucy; the designs and attempt of Mrs. Jones against him; his recovery, by means of Mrs. Penry; and the reason of his having been restrained to such privacy and concealment. She expatiated upon the great love Mr. Goldsmith had for him, and his generous intention in his favour; upon the benevolence of Mr. Jenkins, and the interest herself and Mr Lloyd took in every thing that concerned him; the motives for the present discovery; and concluded thus, he, fixed in silent contemplation, hanging on every accent she uttered, and never once offering to interrupt her, tears of mingled grief and oppressive gratitude flowing down his comely cheeks: "Now, my dear child, don't you think you have reason to adore the wisdom and good-

goodness of Heaven, in your preservation, and every thing consequent thereto? Let not too great a sensibility for the loss of your parents, or your ignorance who they were, or are, tempt you to a murmur or sigh: God knows best what to do with us in this life: it is his to dispose of us as he sees fit, ours to be submissive to his divine will, and be our lot prosperous or adverse, to be obedient and to praise his holy name: But I need dwell no longer on a subject which the sagacious and excellent Jenkins, has made you so good a master of: Happy are you, my dear, that you are furnished with a soul that disdains every thing mean or base; with an heart sensible, and sympathising, and that burns after every noble and praise-worthy pursuit; that is bound with gratitude to heaven and your benefactors, to whom from your very infancy, to this age, giddy in others, but so solid in you, you have given not the least pain or disgust: The filial piety you have displayed to your foster-father; your respectful behaviour, and affection to myself, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Jenkins, and Mrs. Julian, are above all praise, and could flow from no other source than the native goodness of your mind: But, above all, your tender regard to the interest of Mrs. Penry, your

kindness to her children, your readiness to instruct, and promote their interest with your father; the private good offices you have already performed to them; before you knew how much you was obliged to her, or that you yourself, like them, had been unfortunate, are such instances of a generous and exalted soul, as can never be forgotten, and have been noticed, with particular satisfaction, by us all: It was (on purpose to discover your disposition) left to you, to urge the putting those children to school, that they are still supported properly, and that every thing should be transacted for the future welfare and establishment of those pledges of the affection of one of the honestest men, and the most worthy, though some time unfortunate of women; whose days now glide away in ease and comfort, and in the joyful contemplation of the good qualities, of the youth she formerly saved from destruction, and whom she loves with a fondness, equal to her own children, if not superior thereto: Go on, my dear, pursue the paths you are in, and you will never want the favour of God, and the perfect esteem of your friends. Mark, in another instance, how benevolent the Almighty has been to you! You might have been saved and nurtured

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tured by other hands; you might have been brought up to your present age, in plenty, and you might have had a common lot in life, with persons in whom compassion might have been the only virtue: But where could another Goldsmith have been found, inspired with that sudden affection as he was for you? Where a man so situated, as to be able to leave you an ample fortune; where, so qualified to form your mind to wisdom and virtue, as well as to adorn your person and provide you with profusion all the necessaries and ornaments of life? Where a Jenkins, an Israelite indeed, a clergyman erudite, unimpassing, charitable and humane, adorned with heavenly wisdom, with a heart replete with the purest sentiments, and the most exalted kindness for the whole human race; who loves you, who has communicated his whole self to you, and may say, with pride, with noble pride, he has inspired you with those virtues he has always practised himself: Who knowing the rigid and uncharitable, as well as mischievously busy disposition of his wife, has, for so many years, kept the secret of your being recovered from her; whilst she, with a malignancy and malevolence of disposition, which nothing but the rigid maxims of her principles

principles of religion (as it is miscalled) could dictate inly rejoices in the imagination, that all our schemes have proved abortive in your favour; that not being sealed or marked with grace, you have been abandoned by God, and our presumption in saving you punished by the agency of Mrs. Jones, even of whom she is far from having a good opinion?—Where, my dear, could a neighbourhood like ours be found, where affection, union and goodness reign, and, may I add, where, in myself and Mr. Lloyd, you have the sincerest friends, who, as providence has denied us the blessing of children, are at liberty to do every thing in your favour. As I have mentioned Mrs. Jones again, it is not amiss I should inform you of her present situation. As far as human beings can judge of each others hearts, she is repentant, thanks to the visit and lecture of Mr. Goldsmith, which I related to you: But whether her repentance is sincere, or she puts on that guise, in order to raise the compassion of the world, by whose reflections she has been more severely punished, than by the loss of her daughter, we must not determine, but leave to the searcher of hearts. The abhorrence all her friends and acquaintance expressed, of her baseness,

baseness, has deprived her of all society with them, and she has seldom gone abroad till of late; though the benign and considerate Goldsmith has given every encouragement to her return to virtue, by frequent visits and presents, by affording her his countenance, and still superintending the education of his namesake, her now only son; for the other turning out a fine gentleman, her absurd education of him fitting him for little else, and having according to the modern acceptation of that character, done all the bad things he could in the country, made many a parent's heart ach, and run into a variety of extravagance; his father sent him to London, to transact business for him there, where he commenced buck, embezzled near two thousand pounds, and, at length, finished his unimportant and pernicious existence, in a duel, in defence of an insulted strumpet. This blow, added to what she had before felt, on the former occasion, touched her to the quick, and opened her eyes to her own imprudence: For a considerable time she hung her head and was inconsolable, refusing all manner of comfort: The affecting incident brought the loss of her daughter afresh to her mind, and filled her with bitter regrets: Mr. Gold-

Goldsmith was not the last to visit her, after this accident; he set before her, her foolish and ridiculous conduct, in the bringing up her unfortunate son, and proved the life he had led and the fate he came to, to be the natural consequence of such a breeding, and such indulgence. You never considered, cousin, he said to her, that it is the duty of parents to regulate and govern the passions of their children; and not, from a spirit of self vanity, from indolence, or worse motives, to allow a full swing to all their inordinate appetites by which they grow so predominant, as to govern them all the rest of their lives, and produce too many of those miseries and calamities, which we ascribe to many other causes: It is not keeping (says he) the not being taught to keep, a tight rein upon the passions, the indulgence of every desire that rises in the mind, without trying it by the test of reason, and determining whether it be right or fit, or the contrary, has produced all the disorders in the world: That self-love and regard it effectually promotes, shuts out, or stifles every generous and praise-worthy propensity of the human soul: We no longer gratefully adore the cause of all things; our hearts glow not with the love of our fellow-creatures;

tures ; we are deaf to the calls of goodness, mercy and benevolence, and even to those of natural affection, itself: Such a being is a misfortune to himself, and to all who have any connections with him ; he is the promoter of disorder in society, and his death is a public benefit: Haply he seldom arrives to any considerable age ; violent efforts soon destroy themselves ; the eagerness of his pursuits, speedily disorders the machine, and after producing convulsive starts all the time of its existence, its motion is clogged and impeded, and a final cessation of action follows. We leave them to the judgment, of the righteous Supreme, whose darling attribute is mercy, and whose favourable allowance to human frailty and weakness, we trust will preserve them from endless perdition, and pardon those, who by their absurd conduct, have contributed to form those pests of society.—You know, your father is one of the most compassionate of men ; but if he advises or corrects, he thinks it his duty to probe to the bottom of the heart, and never, from a false politeness or tenderness, suppresses what he thinks is necessary to observe.—He talked thus to her, that her eyes might be fully opened and she prepared for the happiness he hereafter intends

intends her. This was, about a twelve-month ago ; and she remains still an object of pity, and indeed requires the cordial that is preparing for her, in the restoration of her daughter : She has shewn a more than usual affection for her other son, your name sake, who, I have been told, is a virtuous and accomplished young gentleman ; and is now in a merchant's compting house in London ; but is soon to return to his father who intends to associate him in business with himself. The honest man, who has none of those delicate sensibilities that some people are blessed with, of all his misfortunes looked upon his late son's embezzlements as the greatest, and expressed little sorrow for his loss. He still shews great attention to Mrs. Jones, but has, perforce, almost removed the yoke of subjection she had fixed upon him ; he ventures to censure her conduct, to find fault with her sentiments, and to differ from her in opinion ; whereas, had she never been guilty of the follies and oversight she has, she might have maintained her despotic empire over him, to the day of her death : But she had lessened herself even in his eyes, and he has taken the usual advantage in such cases. Thus, my dear, you have a picture of your present happy situation

situation, and the characters of those with whom you are likely to be connected: You see I have not treated you as an inexperienced youth, for I know your understanding outstrips your years. All I desire of you, in return for this confidence, is that the knowledge of your misfortune may not too much affect you. Remember, murmurs and complaints for the loss of your parents, will ill suit you, and sadly repay the care of providence, its remarkable kindness to you: That you weep, I am not surprised at; a heart like yours must betray those signs of sympathetic affliction: Do you preserve your placid disposition, and I trust in God, if yet alive, you may glad your parents with the contemplation of your virtues. Remember, events that appear ever so distant to human views, sometimes occur; and that the designs of heaven are inscrutable by the finite ken of human beings. One thing we are certain of, that the practice of religious and social duties, as it is the highest the most exalted perfection of our natures, so it never fails to insure our happiness here, by securing the favour and protection of heaven; and prepares us for, and insures to us, another and a better state of existence"

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Here the amiable the excellent mistress ended her speech, looking with eyes that beamed upon the weeping orphan, unutterable love and tenderness. Not a word, not a breath had interrupted her, from the beginning to the end of her narration; even the sighs and heavings that distended his bosom, were suppressed: Only the streaming tears from his eyes had accompanied her honied accents: For a considerable space of time he remained still silent, returned looks for looks, and seeming to think and wish that she would again speak; but, at length, recollecting himself, as it were, he with a sudden action, it was not in her power to prevent, flung himself upon his knees before her, and taking one of her hands, pressed it to his lips, for some moments, and then exclaimed, "Oh! madam, should I dare to express the least murmur or complaint, how culpable should I be, after the generous cares you have bestowed upon me!—That delicate, that most endearing manner, in which you have informed me of my fortune! No, madam, nothing is left for me to complain of: Can a mortal being be more happy than I am? Has not providence interested you in my favour,—you, whose favour flatters me, I am not entirely
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ly beneath your notice?—Fear not, my dear benefactress, that I shall not religiously follow all your directions, and aim to aspire at the completion of all your hopes: Oh! madam, what a field for future exertion of every virtue of the heart, you have opened to me!—Cast on shore—a helpless infant—fostered by the most generous of mankind—nurtured with all the tenderness of a parent—my mind adorned with useful, with invaluable knowledge—patronized by such friends—Heavens! where will the confusion, the pleasing confusion of ideas, which my imagination has collected together, end?—And unknowing all this, has providence inspired me with the humblest duty, the sincerest attachment and affection for all my benefactors—has it rendered my behaviour pleasing to them—oh! merciful Being, thou hast left thy creature nothing more to desire of earthly happiness; but to continue the present overbearing, almost too overbearing sense of thy invaluable favours!—Oh! tardy time, revolve still more swiftly, that my race of gratitude may be run through with more celerity! Let me anticipate, in imagination, many succeeding years of blissful retaliation!—Suffer not a moment's anxiety to cloud the brow of

the youth they have rescued from destruction!—Oh! suffer not the pangs of my unknown parents for my loss to dwell with me!—Alas! buried in the waves, if they still exist, they have long supposed their infant, and have long ceased to lament his loss!—But if they, in the same instant breathed their last, may they now, removed from all worldly cares, survey from the pure regions of immortality, the happiness of their son?—Oh! regretted parents.—I have known no loss of your cares!—On me, the same affection, you could have bestowed, has been exercised; the soft meltings of humanity, and all the tenderest parental assiduities!—Blessed be the enchanting voice that has opened this mystery to me; that fearing to give pain to so inconsiderable a wretch, had glided her narration with every elevation for pain and regret! May I live to deserve her care—to soften every moment of her valuable life!—To rejoice in the uninterrupted felicity of her and her worthy consort, that unalterable friend, that humane and considerate protector of infancy and guide of my youth!—My honoured father!—my more than parent! How shall I repay the gratitude and duty that I owe you!—Mr. Jenkins!—Mrs. Julian!—Mrs. Penry!—
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your endearing names are all I can at present utter!---But actions shall speak!---the actions of a life, entirely devoted to you!-- Impower me, oh! gracious Being, to speak comfort to the soul of my repenting enemy—the poor Mrs. Jones! What increase of happiness her attempts have produced me!—Have I not from thence enjoyed the society of my amiable Lucy?—Have I not been witness to her opening perfections?—It is all the work of providence, and be its wise designations adored for ever and ever!”—He was still endeavouring to proceed, in such sudden starts of gratitude to heaven and his benefactors, when Mr. Lloyd, who had long missed his excellent wife and his youthful companion, opened the door of the summer-house, and was struck dumb by the enlivened looks and the posture he found them in: Billy kneeling before her, his eyes lifted up to her face; the tears trickling down his cheeks: Mrs. Lloyd intently bending hers upon him, and listening with admiration to what he said. Mr. Lloyd aroused them at his entrance; but only in some manner changed the scene; the animated youth rose, and would have fallen before him in the same attitude; but that gentleman catching him in his arms, pre-

vented that expression of his veneration: His gratitude to him forced from him words of the like import he had lately uttered; though somewhat more connected, than those to his wife; to which he received the kindest and tenderest returns, and being willing to relieve them from their solemnity, he said jestingly, "Upon my word, young gentleman, if I did not too well know your principles, I should have been alarmed at finding a young man of your figure kneeling before Mrs. Lloyd, especially as you are a kind of rival in her affections. Why you formed a picture of two lovers, almost; you telling the melancholy tale of your sufferings, she kindly listening and bending to your relief. Faith I believe I came just in the nick of time; did not I?" This little excursion made Mrs. Lloyd laugh heartily, and Billy, smiling, returned, "And the danger will much increase, my dear Sir, in your apprehensions, when I tell you, and tell you sincerely, that I do love your lady, more than words can describe, and that my affection has increased, within this hour, to such a degree, as, even, in your presence I cannot help expressing."

They immediately adjourned to the house, where they returned to their former

mer manner of passing their time; and, according to the plan laid, it was agreed, that abroad Billy should pass for a young gentleman, nephew to Mrs. Lloyd, who was come to reside with Mr. Goldsmith, for the benefit of his instruction and conversation

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

*Anecdote of the sprightly Lucy—Mistake of a
sage devotee—Instance of most endearing
gratitude.*

WE must now, before we return with the orphan to Mr. Goldsmith's, relate what passed there in his absence. That gentleman having, one morning, found Lucy in the Museum, playing upon her harpsichord, sat down by her, and after she had finished her piece of musick, said, "Lucy, I think you excel greatly on this instrument, and indeed you look charmingly whilst before it. I have often thought a fine woman cannot be placed in a situation where she appears more to advantage." Lucy got up, and dropping him a courtesy, ran, flinging her arms round his neck, said with her usual vivacity, "Papa, you make me proud of myself; for I shall always be more desirous of your approbation than that of all the world." "I hope not, my dear," he returned, "I hope to live to see you more proud of the praises of a fond husband, whose passion will ever be an advocate in your behalf, and make
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even your foibles agreeable." "Fiddle-faddle," cries Lucy, "about husbands; what have I to do to think of them? I never saw to my knowledge but one young man in my life, and to be sure him I love: But I should be glad to see more of the creatures, that I might not love thro' necessity, but choice: Do, dear papa, let me see a little more of the world than this house and that rookery; I am really tired with being cloistered up for ever so, and long to mix with more people, and see variety of their scenes," "Pretty well said, my forward darling," replied Goldsmith. "I find that, keep a young female ever so recluse, breed her up with ever so much wisdom and prudence, it is impossible to conquer the gadding curiosity of the sex; however," continues he, laughing, "that was the very thing I came to talk to you about, your enjoyment of more liberty, which you so much long after: but at the same time, I will venture to assure you, that in this whole principality you will not see a more accomplished youth than our Billy; and that the more you mingle in society, if you observe with a curious eye, the ways of mankind, the more you will long to return to the peaceful and friendly, society, and the solitary shades you have

have left. I had particular reasons, which you must not inquire into, for keeping you in such privacy; but those reasons will soon exist no more: Mean time. I must desire it as a particular favour, my young, sprightly lady of sixteen, that you still keep the secret of your being brought up here, if you can, for some time, and that you pass for a niece of our friend Mr. Lloyd's, as Billy is to do for the nephew of his lady. And now, madam, the spell that detained you, is undone, and when Billy returns, you shall both have opportunities enough to see the world you are so fond of, and to forget me and all my solitudes for you."

Lucy, thinking she had offended, looked very grave, and, the ready tear standing in her eye, answered, "Dear papa, I did not mean to give you any uneasiness; but one has, I don't know how, an inclination to see all one can of the country. But I would not give a pin for all the world, if it were to deprive me of my dear papa and my friends here. I was in hopes I should be still under your guidance, and that you would yourself be pleased to shew us scenes, which we have yet only seen in books and pictures: But rather than give you the least cause of offence,

let me for ever be buried here. I own I am heedless in my words and actions ; but I must greatly wrong my education, if I can ever condescend to be base and ungrateful. Nay I can keep a secret with fidelity too ; but what secrets have I had to keep here ? all your actions and those of our friends are open and undisguised, and I have been, perhaps, too much encouraged thereby to communicate every thing that passes in my own mind : But I have not read in vain, nor, in vain, heard your maxims, my dear papa, and know what caution and reserve is necessary, in mingling or conversing with mankind : Who I am, I never troubled my head about : Satisfied with your generous regard to me, I have not a wish but to please you in all my thoughts and actions. As to my dear Billy, I believe there cannot be a more accomplished youth, and I fancy the sight of any other, will only serve as a foil to set off his perfections ; he can never lose by the comparison with others, I am sure :” Seeing a smile rise in the face of Mr. Goldsmith, she could not suppress the following words : “ But how can I compare our present situation with any thing more aptly, than that of a lady immured in a moated castle, by some enchanter : Billy
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my green dwarf, who receives messages and summonses on the battlements, and our great house-dog, the dragon that preserves me from attack: The men-servants, my gentlemen-ushers, the maids my damsels; Mrs. Julian and Mrs. Penry, my reverend matrons; and you, my dear papa, for I must finish my parallel, the sage enchanter, who having found by my Horoscope that I am to meet some fatal disaster, if at large, has constructed a Talisman, without breaking which I must remain in the castle to my dying-day. Dear, dear papa, how glad I am that my enchanter himself is the very knight of the order of wisdom, that releases me, and upon whom I must bestow myself in return."

These words were uttered in so droll and arch a manner, that Goldsmith could not refrain a hearty laugh: "Well, he returned, my Armida, my Thalistris, my Roxana, my Cassandra, and what not, as soon as Billy arrives, the Talisman will be broken, and the imprisoned lady set at liberty; but hear what the Talisiman says, *This enchantment shall cease when Lucy shall engage never to reject the council of her Green Dwarf, who in the absence of Mocomoco, her sage protector, is to be her adviser: If she listens to the suggestions of the demons of* vanity

vanity or folly, she will inevitably fall into the forlorn state of repentance and despair. What say you, Lucy; will you stay in the castle, or venture abroad under the enchanter's injunction?" "Oh! sage Mocomoco, she replied, liberty, liberty, is my desire, and I have so much confidence in my own strength as to defy all the demons and evil genii of earth, air and water." More to the same purpose passed; for Lucy's spirits were up with the thoughts of rambling, and Mr. Goldsmith being diverted with her vivacity, she carried it to the utmost pitch.

The very next day to that on which this conversation happened, Mr. Lloyd his lady, and their amiable guest, set out for Mr. Goldsmith's, and in their way alighted at Mr. Jenkins's, who soon came down from his study, and Mrs. Jenkins from her chamber, to receive them. Mr. Jenkins, who knew how matters stood, squeezed Billy, with a warm and friendly grasp, by the hand; but his behaviour was as to a stranger, welcoming him to his relations in the country, and wishing for frequent opportunities of his company, while he remained in it. It was dinner-time the table was spread, and Mrs. Jenkins performed, with more good humour than

ordinary, the honours of her house; she could not keep her eyes off the accomplished orphan; but viewed him with a countenance seemingly full of satisfaction, which made Mrs. Lloyd ask her how she liked her nephew? The old lady screwing up her face, and nodding her head, answered, "Who can help loving such a fine and comely youth, in whose forehead the stamp of grace is visible to me; tho' your carnal eyes cannot perceive it." If they had dared, they would have laughed aloud, at this speech; but they were obliged to suppress their mirth, at her distinguishing her mark of grace in the very front, which so many years ago, she had pronounced to wear the mark of reprobation. "My dear," returned Jenkins, in his solemn way, "We must all agree with you in what you say, and even with carnal eyes, can discover that indelible mark, and (with an ironical look at the company) I hope many poor outcasts from God, in your phrase, will grow up like him to wear at length the same signature." As Mrs. Jenkins could not fathom this inigmatical speech, she seemed to applaud herself for her judgment. "I hope madam, said Billy, I shall often have the pleasure to see you, whilst I remain in this country, and am deter-

determined you shall not be deceived in your good opinion of me." "Aye, pray do, Mrs. Jenkins, says Mrs. Lloyd; we are going to place my nephew with the wise and humane Mr. Goldsmith, for some time, that he may improve by his manners and instructions, and there you will also see a young lady, my husband's kinswoman, who I hope will discover the same marks you are so discerning as to perceive in my nephew."

Mrs. Jenkins was so enamoured of her young visitor, that she herself invited him to see their garden, and other parts of their premises, dining him at every step with her usual rant, of election, reprobation, pangs of the new birth, sinless perfection, and other as deep doctrines, which occupied her poor head: Mean time, the company within were diverting themselves at her expence, and descanting upon her absurd contradictions.

They staid at the good Jenkins's till almost sun-set, and then concluded their little tour at Mr. Goldsmith's. That gentleman happened to be alone, sitting in his parlour, when they entered, Lucy being in her chamber, and Mrs. Julian and Mrs. Penry otherwise employed. He received his guests in the most welcome manner,

and his adopted son, with fresh testimonies of affection. Billy, whose mind was overwhelmed with what he had lately heard, could not contain himself, and casting himself on his knees and embracing those of his father, exclaimed, " Oh! Sir, my honoured, my more than honoured, my revered parent and benefactor! Forgive me if in any part of my conduct hitherto, I have behaved as I ought not to have done! I could not know till now, how much I owe to my preserver and patron. The tender motions that do, and ever will, fill my soul, are perhaps too overbearing for me to express in words; but let the actions of a life entirely devoted to procure your ease and happiness, speak for me! The rising and setting sun, shall never bound my minutes of submissive duty and attention! Thank God, that by being released from privacy, I shall be enabled to be more useful to you, and to devote every moment to your interest or satisfaction: Oh! my dearest father and friend (never may I forfeit these endearing names) may your valued life be prolonged to see the success of your precepts; the consequences of the noble education you have bestowed upon me!" He was going on, when the worthy Goldsmith, raising, and straining

straining him a close embrace, answered, "My child, your piety and your gratitude charm me: I am sure you will never give me the least cause of complaint: Live with me, for the future, as with your bosom friend and companion; enjoy with me, that fortune, whilst I live, which after I am snatched from you shall be yours alone: You, I know, like me, will share it with the miserable and unfortunate; you will wipe away the widow's and the orphan's tears, and prove yourself a good steward to heaven. We will have no more of this; our friends are here; it is our duty to entertain them cheerfully, and you must go and fetch your Lucy to them, who, I make no doubt, you as much long to see, as she does to see you."

Billy bowed and went to Lucy's apartment, who could not help shewing her transport at his return, whilst he, with the innocent freedom, that he had ever practised, strained her to his bosom, and testified how pleased he was to rejoin her society. After conducting the young lady to the parlour, he flew to find out Mrs. Julian and Mrs Penry, where a new scene of acknowledgement and affectionate gratitude succeeded, and those two worthy creatures were melted even to tears with

his tender expressions of it, and thought themselves supremely happy.

Billy, who had a breast susceptible of the softest impressions, had ever entertained a fondness for Lucy, from his earliest years; but it had not yet been improved into love: However, the few hints relative to her, tho' dropped in the most distant manner by Mrs. Lloyd, induced him to think of her in another manner than he had hitherto done, and several days before he returned home, he found himself extremely eager to see her. The idea of her having been, so many years, estranged from, and lost to her parents, thro' his innocent means, still more and more increased his beginning passion: and gratitude, which, in refined souls, is ever the concomitant of love, informed him that he ought to repay her by an eternal affection; which by his native sagacity, also, he saw would be very agreeable to his patron. Yet he knew not himself; and her airy temper somewhat repressed his rising flame; his thoughtful philosophic turn of mind, made him fearful she would convert every thing into jest, he should say to her; and tho' he longed to tell her how much he adored her, he could not venture to disclose his passion,

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as he now judged it to be. He was apprehensive such a declaration would abridge all the little enchanting freedoms she took with him, that the delicate arm would then be thrown no more round his neck or waist, or her cheek be innocently laid to his; familiarities which she practised from the connection they had held as children, pupils, and brother and sister, which were epithets they had been encouraged to use to each other. Beside, he was resolved to see first whether she had a real love for him, and in a degree that might be converted to a consent to the felicitous union he even now began to meditate: This was what occurred in the first motions of his gratitude, which he was incapable to distinguish from love.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd were now perpetually, almost, at Goldsmith's, and accompanying him, and his young people, in excursions to the neighbouring towns and villages; so that in a month's time they had visited every place of note in the county, except Carmarthen, which they left to the last, because Mr. Goldsmith intended to stay some weeks in that polite town, where they might see objects most worthy of observation. They were greatly delighted with the praises bestowed

bestowed upon the Orphan and Lucy, ever where; Billy reasoned justly upon all he beheld; and Lucy, charmed to the last degree, particularly at the homage paid to her excelling beauties by the men, and at the evident envy, apparent in the looks and the expressions of the ladies. These matters and the various fashions she beheld, employed her attention strictly; whilst Billy was very sedulous in his inquiries into the history, antiquities and natural productions of every place in which they made any stay, the trade and manufactures of the county in general: But never suffered these researches to engross his attention so much, as to render him neglectful of the entertainment of his friends. Returning home by the way of Llanelly, they found several persons of figure were then there, and that an assembly was appointed, at the best inn in the town, for their diversion the next night. Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Lloyd, studious to omit nothing that could gratify curiosity, resolved to be present at it, as it had been the only opportunity they met with, to introduce them to any place, where a promiscuous number of polite persons, of both sexes, were met together. Mr. Goldsmith, therefore, went to lodge with a merchant, an old friend,

friend, with his company, whose house had sufficient accommodations for them and their servants, and who was extremely obliged by this visit: Here they heard the names of the gentry then in the town, which were, the Lord and Lady Lisburne, Sir Hugh Owen, a Carmarthenshire baronet, of considerable fortune; Squire Caldwell, a London buck, Dr. Jones a physician and his Lady, Sir Trevor Thomas, Bart, with his daughter, and a few others of less note: Also that all the ladies and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, were vying with each other who should appear with most splendor. As our ladies carried with them two or three changes of apparel, they were not at a loss upon this occasion; and what little articles they wanted otherwise, were supplied by the civility of Mrs. Hughes, their kind hostess, and her daughters, who were much delighted with the honour done them by such guests.

C H A P. XIV.

Adventures of a country assembly, and their consequences.

IF this assembly was not so brilliant as many others, it still surpassed the expectation of our young travellers. The room was large, and illuminated with wax-candles, and every decoration that the town and neighbourhood could supply, at such a short notice. The band of music was composed of gentlemen not unskilled in the science: an elegant cold collation was provided in an adjacent room, cards were prepared for those that chose it, and a universal desire seemed to prevail to be easy and good humoured. If Lucy was outshone in finery, her amiable person soon attracted all eyes, and drew so many glances from the men, and such inquisitive looks from the ladies, as, with all her vivacity and good opinion of herself, not a little shocked her: To have, as it were the dimensions of her person, the features of her face, examined and inspected by so many eyes at once, was so entirely opposite to the privacy to which she had till lately,

lately, been ever accustomed, that after two or three gazes, full of timidity and with a countenance suffused with a crimson glow, all resolution forsook her, for many minutes, and her fine eyes were inclined downwards, whilst, according to their several manners, she heard the different opinions of the company. “A charming creature, indeed!” says Lady Lisburne—“a rustic, tho’ a pretty one!” exclaims a second lady—“a painted doll,” cries a third. “Beauteous as an angel,” broke out one gentleman—“d—d fine creature, by G—d,” replies the buck; and thus it went round, whilst Mrs. Lloyd endeavoured, by the kindest speeches, to reanimate the depressed virgin; who whispered her,—“Oh! my dear lady! I am so much confused!—sure I must be a strange uncouth creature, to draw all eyes upon me—Do I, indeed, madam, look differently from any body else?” “Why, my dear, you are really different from any lady I see; you are young, and you are handsome, and I am not surprised at the admiration you create, at the encomiums you hear; but look upon the croud with the eye of discernment; treat them as so many individuals; the company, the conversation of any single person would give you

you no pain, and assembled together, why then should their looks or speeches disturb you? Ah! Lucy, you now begin to perceive that the admiration you are naturally fond of, may produce some uneasiness!" She had no time to reply, but by a look that seemed to acknowledge the justice of her remark; for the coming up of the orphan, who had observed his Lucy's embarrassment, put an end to their discourse! his fine person and engaging features, had attracted also every eye: He, who had long philosophised, with his patron and Mr. Jenkins, upon the ways of mankind, had been struck with very little and momentary surprise at this new spectacle; but had been delighting the former, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Hughes, with his judicious remarks and observations upon the manners and dress of the company, nor was unnoticed by the busy eyes that were every moment seeking fresh objects of gratification. Mr. Hughes had been called aside, several times, to know who the beautiful youth was, and a thousand encomiums had been passed upon him, particularly by the ladies, who seemed to have singled him out for their favourite: He had been addressed also by the gentleman; Sir Hugh Owen very politely assured him, he should

should be proud of the honour of his friendship, Dr. Jones, Sir Trevor, and his Lordship, seemed to take peculiar pleasure in his conversation, and the very Buck, with three or four oaths, told him he should be glad to drink a bottle with him next day, and as he was a stranger at Llanelly, as well as himself, to range through the town, where it was plain there were wenches worth the chase. Mr. Goldsmith's satisfaction must be better felt than expressed; his honest pride and affection were gratified by the encomiums Billy received, and the good nature it inspired him with, seemed to beam forth in every thing he did or said, whilst the youth seemed to consult, after every word he uttered, the countenances of his friends, to see if they approved of it, with blushes that would have added new charms to the cheeks of an Adonis. They had heard the praises bestowed on Lucy also, and Mr. Goldsmith, and Mr. Lloyd had enjoyed her confusion, which was visible to every one: But Billy took compassion upon her in her distress; and turning to Mr. Goldsmith, said, my dear Sir, our poor maid, with all her gaiety, suffers extremely I see—permit me to endeavour, with Mrs. Lloyd, to

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inspire her with a little of that assurance so necessary in this inquisitive circle: He waited not his reply, but joined those ladies, who the minute afterwards were also joined by Mrs. Hughes and her daughters. He singled out his Lucy, and with an accent of the tenderest inquietude, said, "My dear miss, how do you relish this sort of amusement; I think your presence adds grace to every thing here; but still in my opinion, my Lucy, in solitude at St. Ismael, seemed always more easy and cheerful than she is at present, whilst she fills every eye with rapture, and excites so much praise and admiration, as is expressed by every tongue. Lucy looking earnestly at him, replied, "Ah! dear Billy, I think, if we were once more at St. Ismael, I should never desire to leave it: I am not displeased with the place or the company, if they would let me observe what passes without singling me out as a particular object of their remarks: I am pleased with the notice taken of you; but am quite incapable of enjoying that bestowed upon myself: Beside, to be abused in such terms—ruffic—painted doll—fine creature, with an oath,—such language I thought was banished all civil society."

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“My dear Lucy,” he rejoined, “we must presume that amongst the polite, these are interjections that are common, though we never heard them before: Let me add to them, by assuring you, that I myself want words to express how elegantly becoming you appear, how much superior to every other lady, where perhaps there are many who may be called beautiful.” At this conclusion, Lucy, who had begun to resume her spirits, lifted up her eyes, which she directed to Billy, in such glances as betrayed her acknowledgement and the mingled tenderness, her heart felt for him. And the youth willing entirely to dispel her fears, took her by the hand and led her to Mr. Goldsmith, and Mr. Lloyd, followed by Mrs. Lloyd Mrs. Hughes, and her daughters. Those gentlemen were profuse in their expressions of regard to her, and with the whole circle, who had followed the handsome pair with their eyes, admired the appearance they made together. Soon after, the dances began; Billy with inimitable grace danced minutes with Lady Lisburne, Miss Thomas, Mrs. Lloyd, and Lucy, who acquitted herself as handsomely, tho’ their instructions had never before been practised.

in public. They then joined in country dances with the rest of the company, who if they before were struck with their persons, were now more so with their affability, and condescending good nature; and when the assembly broke up, they had made some conquests on the hearts both of the males and females, many of whom attended them and their friends to the coach side, expressing their wish to be admitted to pay their compliments to them before they left the town.

Accordingly, the next day, Sir Hugh Owen, Sir Trevor Thomas and his agreeable daughter, Mr. Caldwell, and several ladies waited upon our travellers, at Mr. Hughes's, where that gentleman spared no expence to make them welcome in honour of his guests. Sir Hugh was very particular in his addresses to Miss Lucy, whilst Miss Thomas seemed not less delighted with the conversation of the Orphan, who was overpowered also with the civilities of her father. That gentleman had at first sight conceived a fondness for Billy, and as he had been told by Mr. Lloyd that he was his nephew, and was at present at Mr. Goldsmith's, who he had formerly been very intimate with, he was
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very earnest with those gentlemen to permit him to spend a few days with him, at his seat at Ithin Duon, about four miles from Carmarthen, or that the whole company would do him that honour: Every one accepted the invitation upon condition that Billy made one of the sett, and nobody more ready than Caldwell, to whom Mr. Goldsmith had already entertained an aversion, and therefore, on that account, and some other reasons that will hereafter appear, after the genteelest returns for the favour intended him, he put off the visit to a more convenient opportunity, and hoped Sir Trevor and his daughter would oblige Mr. Lloyd and himself with their company when they came into their neighbourhood, observing, that the small distance of their houses would make a future intercourse as easy as it would be agreeable to all parties: He also, with Mr. Lloyd, made the same proposal to Sir Hugh, knowing him to be a young gentleman of worth and honour. They parted after mutual promises of friendship and future sociability; but did not get rid of the buck till they sat out for Kidwelly in the evening, tho' heartily jaded with his insipid and immoral turn of discourse, his oaths and

execrations. all veiled under the guise of affected freedom and good humour. Lucy herself, who could perceive he was become her humble servant, tho' his person was not unexceptionable, was disgusted and astonished at his behaviour; and though his professions not a little flattered her vanity, she rejoiced when their departure freed her from his discourse.

So to bed Miss when
you have thus far —
Amen if —

CHAP.

C H A P. XV.

*Invectives against promiscuous assemblies—
reason of those invectives.—Description and
character of a lovely maid.*

THEIR journey to St. Ismael was pleasant, and the conversation at their arrival turned principally upon the adventure at Llanelly. Mrs. Lloyd and the gentlemen bestowed many encomiums upon their pupils, particularly the young gentleman; and Mr. Goldsmith was not a little severe in his remarks upon the assembly, nay, upon all assemblies in general. “I am,” said he, “as great a friend to good neighbourhood and sociality as any one can be; but I must think these promiscuous meetings of the sexes seldom are promotive thereof: To be easy, to be happy, you must join with persons of similar tempers, similar characters, and similar principles; nay, this should be one fundamental point, that the parties are all known to each other: Where these matters are not attended to, absurd and dreadful are the effects, not only in London but in country towns. The virtuous
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and the sober have herded with the sharper, the strumpet, or the profligate; who have often improved the occasion to the destruction of family happiness and of spotless innocence; have impaired the fortunes of the worthy by playing high, and, in short, one hour has prepared baits for the ruin of the incautious and the thoughtless. Dress and a polite varnish are the recommendations to every one; and let me tell you, those, and the *small-talk* so much in vogue, may as easily be acquired by a villain as by a person of fortune; and who can discriminate one from the other, considering the breeding and attainments of people of fashion in the present times? Few of them are directed to pursuits that ennoble their minds, or teach them to think for themselves; they give the reins to the enjoyment of every modish pleasure and gratification; they act as those of their own rank are generally seen to act, without diving farther into reasons or consequences: Thus their acquirements being merely superficial, and the effect of imitation, they themselves are easily aped by the artful and the designing, who lay plans to raise their fortunes at the expence of these sons and daughters of spontaneous wealth, if I may be allowed

ed that expression. Therefore it still more and more behoves us to be careful what company we mingle in, and, as we know our own weak sides, to associate only with those of equal fortune and credit. To be sure, many matches have been brought about from these first interviews between young persons of the two sexes; but more of them have proved unfortunat than happy: Intercourses begun by folly, often end in wretchedness. Did not the sordid and selfish dispositions of parents, the silly education they generally give their children, and the vices that reign amongst us forbid it, the fair virgin would find a market nearer home: She would captivate under the simple ornaments of domestic attendance, and there would be no need to dress her up, as it were, for sale, and carry her to those public marts of matrimony, or somewhat worse, balls and assemblies, drums and routs, where a virtuous and truly good woman is seldom seen to appear, after the day that unites her to the man she loves. I may, for ought I know, be counted to much of a cynic; but I fear the too eager pursuit of pleasure, amongst all ranks of people, betokens no good to my country. Private virtue and œconomy extinct, public
virtue

virtue will, of course, soon expire, and an inundation of corruption overwhelm the nation. I hope the time is not approaching when another Juburtha, after having bribed our senators themselves shall exclaim, *Vale venalem urbem, et mox perituram, si emptorem inveneris!*"

These invectives were not immediately drawn from Mr. Goldsmith, by his peculiar aversion or distaste at these kinds of entertainments; nor had he, who was all over allowance to other people's failings or pleasures, if innocent, frequented them much, or condemned them with such asperity; but there was a snake in the grass at which all this was aimed, that had filled him with no little uneasiness, which the discerning Mrs. Lloyd had also perceived. Let a human being be ever so perfect; let him be the very standard of every virtue; yet, like other frail mortals, he is seldom philosopher enough, to hear with patience a disappointment in a favourite plan or scheme, without exquisite pain. The more this plan may be formed upon the structure of benevolence and affection for others, upon a disinterested principle, as he thinks, the more cruel that disappointment. The bosom warmed, the imagination heated with the happiness probably to be secured

secured by his plan; he forgets that he is not absolute disposer of even the children he has educated, who, perhaps, by some direction of nature, may receive a very different bias from that he intended to give them: He forgets also that self-love is often at the bottom of his views: He will delight to have his virtues reflected in his children, without considering their happiness as much as his own. Thus prudence is often mere humour, caution degenerates into suspicion, and we are entirely, in one particular, as much lost to reason as a mad man, who reasons right upon wrong premises. This was pretty nearly the good Mr. Goldsmith's situation: He had firmly fixed, in his own mind, all the circumstances of the delectable union between his adopted son and Lucy; he contemplated the future bliss they would share; he fondly indulged his joy, in the view of preserving his estate in his own family and name, at the same time that he raised and rewarded the merit of the orphan he had saved from perishing, in so extraordinary a way, whose person he almost idolized, and whose virtues and amiable qualities had finished the conquest over his affections. Hitherto he had seen no remora that could possibly retard

tard his wishes; save that the visible difference of their tempers a little chagrined him: However, he hoped time might somewhat abate of Lucy's volatility, or at the worst, that joined with the grave and thoughtful disposition of a youth she loved, with proper management, she might communicate every satisfaction, and from an endeavour to please suppress those gay flights which even to him were disagreeable, and which he had been long endeavouring to cure her of.

Alas! he had, at the late assembly, discerned the mutual liking Billy and Miss Thomas had shewn of each other: That young lady, tho' no beauty, had a certain agreeableness in person, air and features, that, with a man of sensibility, often is more captivating, than that faultless, that harmonized female whose only disadvantage it is to be quite perfect in her person, even before the most critic scrutinizing eye; but seldom to hear, in her mental charms, and proportion to those which are exterior. Miss Susanna Thomas had a most bewitching soft look; but was rather of the palest; she was fair as the imagination of the most raptured, poetic lover could describe, with all his epithets and allusions to lillies, snow, and
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what not. Her eyes beamed sentimental fire, her hair was, like these luminaries, of a jetty hue; her rising bosom gently beat the alarm of love, and if her shape was not so fine as Lucy's, it was still to the last degree delicate and easy, and her air and mein altogether incomparable and peculiar to herself; at least so every one pronounced that fixed their eyes upon her, which were all the polite, and all the young fellows of fortune and expectation in the pincinality. To this slight sketch of the external charms of this Phoenix of her time, it is proper I should add a few traits of her acquirements, and more hidden perfections. She was about 17 years of age, and had been brought up under the tender and endearing cares of the best of parents, between whom all had been harmony, concord, love, and friendship. All branches of education that were proper for a lady of her family and fortune had been bestowed upon her, and she was certainly the most accomplished female that any where ever existed, not even excluding the fancied heroines of ancient or modern romance, if stript of what is unnatural and absurd. She spoke French and Italian, had read the best authors in those languages, and imbibed all

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their sweetness and softness of expression. She had no inconsiderable knowledge of the Latin, and had with extreme avidity read most of the valuable books in her own tongue, whose maxims she made her own, or whose beauties she had tasted and admired. As to the slighter endowments, she had a relish for music, and could perform upon the hapsichord and spinnet, accompanying the melodious strains with a voice that charmed the admiring ear. She danced with a grace that alone would have procured her a multitude of common lovers; she moved so lightly, footed so gently, that, like the fabled nymphs of old, the flowers might have raised their heads, unhurt by her feet. She was not, however, so absorbed by these pursuits, as to have neglected more humble and less shining ones, tho' far more necessary: Death having for three years, or more, deprived her of an indulgent mother, she had succeeded her in the care and management of her father's family; by which she had enured herself to domestic concerns, and her prudence was conspicuous even in the smallest transactions of the larder and the kitchen: She understood pickling, preserving, and the whole detail of housewifery, and Sir Trevor,

Trevor, by her conduct in those particulars, had found little loss of his dear comfort, though it still continued to sit heavy upon him, and impressed a solemnity on all his words and actions.

The native disposition of Miss Thomas had been highly valuable, even without these attainments: No war of unruly passions ever heaved her bosom; all was gentle, mild, and calm there: She had been early instructed in her duty to the supreme Being, not by rigid dogmas of sour and unsociable sects; but by those amiable and benign rules delivered in the holy scriptures, which had sunk deep into her mind, and influenced all her actions. Thence arose those bright virtues which elevated her soul almost above mortality; that love of her fellow creatures, that compassion, that fear of offending, that desire of being approved by herself and others, that beneficence that already constituted her the almost tutelary and guardian angel of her neighbourhood, and the delight of all that had the happiness of her acquaintance: Yet half her good actions were not publicly known; sickness and modest poverty were frequently relieved by her, without exciting a blush; she scarcely let her *left hand* know what her *right* did, when it

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could

could possibly be concealed. She could read the countenances of the unhappy so well, that her aid immediately followed the semblance; but, upon applications for charity, her judgment directed her, and she could distinguish affected appearances from reality. Her suit for allowances to the distressed or suffering tenants of her father, or forgiveness of rent, after unavoidable losses, was never rejected, tho' every now and then preferred. By the influence of her example the young maidens of the vicinity were a different sort of females from others: Each, in their several stations, strived to imitate Miss Sukey in some of her amiable qualities; their lovers were thence converted to sobriety and civility, and made better husbands and better fathers than any of their rank elsewhere: And, by these means, Sir Trevor's tenants became easy and happy, and smiling plenty, produced by honest industry, distinguished them from those upon all the estates within a circumference of many miles. This estate amounted to a clear 1500l. per annum, well wooded, and watered with streams and rivulets, and abounding in corn and pasture. Sir Trevor himself, as had his ancestors for several generations, resided constantly at his mansion-house, nor
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was prompted by ambition, or interest to forsake his domestic happiness. He had been high sheriff of the county, and was in the commission of the peace and a deputy-lieutenant. His education had been good, and his natural temper was excellent. Though in the 60th year of his age, he enjoyed sound and uninterrupted health, to which a temperate life had much contributed: Miss Sukey was his only child, and the heiress of his fortune, a nephew, on whom part of his freehold estate was entailed, and was the last male heir, having deceased about three years after her birth: He was not only fond of his amiable daughter, but perfectly adored her, and her every advice was decisive with him. He prevented all her wishes; her desires were gratified as soon as they were hinted to him, even in the most distant manner. This behaviour was, on her part, returned by an affection and veneration that possessed all her soul, and directed every action of her life. Taken up with her duty to this good parent and to the family, she had no prospect beyond them; but Sir Trevor, ever contemplating the charms, the virtues of his dearest Sukey, looked forward to the fatal hour, that must deprive her of his protection, with the ut-

most pain: He wished to see her happily disposed of in marriage; but in all his researches found none of the neighbouring gentlemen, in his opinion, worthy of that happiness, in any degree, but Sir Hugh Owen, whose estate of about six hundred pounds a year lay near his own. He liked his person and his temper, and his character was untainted with the least act of vice. His family had been long respected for worth and goodness; but his education had been strangely neglected, so that he feared his daughter, from her discernment, would not think him an eligible companion for life. However, they lived in terms of the greatest friendship, and he was one of their most esteemed visitors. The young lady, tho' attended by a crowd of other suitors, even some of them dignified with titles, from her own and the neighbouring counties, appeared to have no tendency herself to the soft inclination she inspired. Not that her heart was impenetrable; for she seemed formed with all the requisites to the reception of that passion which ennobles and exalts the mind; but her high opinion of matrimonial happiness convinced her that it was a matter that concerned the judgment as well as the heart, and she had seen no man yet with whom she

she could enjoy that felicitous union, without alloy. Therefore Sir Trevor contented himself with hopes that she would one day fix her choice, and forbore to urge her on this head, as, like a wise parent, he consulted more her future happiness than any increase of fortune, or the aggrandizement of his family.

The first sight of the Orphan filled her with an unusual pleasure, and she pointed him out to her father; but when she heard him talk, the accents of his voice, and the knowledge he displayed in his observations and remarks, entirely drew her attention, which Sir Trevor perceiving, with pleasure, contrived to continue the conversation with him, as long as possible, and in his own mind esteemed him the most accomplished youth he had ever seen and even felt a sudden affection for him, often using the expressions *dear boy—my dear*—whilst talking to him, without considering him as an absolute stranger. From his dress, and the regard shewn to him by Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Goldsmith, he made no doubt he was a youth of family and fortune, and was delighted to find he was nephew of the former's lady, whose lineage he knew to be good, and that her spouse was one of the worthiest men breathing.

breathing. He observed, with rapture, the glances he cast at Miss Sukey, and the satisfaction that young lady expressed in seeing and hearing him, and already fondly wished for such a son-in-law. Indeed, the notice the two young folks took of each other, was not unperceived by others, on whom it had very different effects. Mr. Goldsmith, as before observed, was troubled, and began to fear for his scheme of happiness; Mrs. Lloyd though struck with the similarity of genius and temper she noticed in them, was apprehensive for her friends, and yet, in her heart, applauded them for it, and seemed to think heaven intended them for each other. Mr. Lloyd, who well knew the virtues of the baronet and his daughter, forgetting Goldsmith and Lucy, formed already a scheme of future bliss for the Orphan, whom he sincerely loved. Lucy, the gay and volatile Lucy, was piqued at the visible respect and awe with which Billy, addressed Miss Thomas; but it was only an offence to her vanity; she thought her beauty affronted that any one should rob her of any part of that notice, which yet had been so painful to her; ; ran over the person of the lady, and formed a silent comparison between them, much to her own
advan-

advantage. Thus matters were situated when the visit was paid them at Mr. Hughes's, and tho' Miss Sukey endeavoured to cement a friendship with Lucy, her returns of civility were forced, and, she knew not why, she did not like her. Billy, notwithstanding he took peculiar delight in conversing with Miss Thomas, was not singular in directing his discourse to her; but now addressed Lucy, then Mrs. Lloyd and the other ladies; though already he wished to engage her conversation alone, and that the baronet's invitation had been accepted, to whom he made the most grateful return for the honour he did him in particular. He imagined the attachment he felt for Miss Thomas was solely caused by her exalted understanding and delicate manners; he had yet little idea of the gentle passion she was so formed to inspire, and though he felt, pain at her departure, he thought it only the natural consequence of that esteem for her which had been so greatly excited by her superior qualities. He was profuse in her praises, in their way home, and modestly said, "he was glad his dear Lucy had an acquaintance that was truly worthy of her love and imitation:" But the knowledge he had of his good patron's intentions,

intentions, and the air of pettish uneasiness he discovered in his invectives against assemblies, &c. his directing his eyes principally towards him, during that discourse, at once convinced him that Mr. Goldsmith had viewed his assiduity to Miss Thomas, in a light that he himself had never placed it. He had practised no concealments yet, and his honest soul disdained them. To the surprize of the company he rose, and astonished Mr. Goldsmith, by seizing his hand; and bearing it to his mouth, impressed on it an affectionate kiss, crying, "My dearest father and friend! Let us never be present more in these circles, if it gives you the least uneasiness. I, for my part, have no wish beyond this neighbourhood, and would forego even every gratification of youth and pleasure, rather than see the least concern impressed upon that honoured countenance."

Goldsmith could for some minutes answer only by the most emphatical look, that ever expressed amazement, and mingled love and transport: He blushed at his son's discernment; he folded him in his arms, and the tears ran plentifully down his cheeks. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Julian and Mrs. Penry, were melted, they hardly knew why, and Lucy gazed and

and wondered what all this could mean : After some moments, recollecting himself, he exclaimed, “ No, my son, I never did or can suspect thee of the least disrespect or undutifulness :— I know thy genuine and native generosity of heart too well : But my child I hope will forget what he has perceived — I am, perhaps, too anxious after events which may never be permitted, by providence, to happen. Blindly devoted to our own schemes and purposes, we dare determine upon future projects, and set down the completion of them as certain, agreeable to our fond expectations, which a very minute circumstance may render entirely abortive. I err, no doubt, in this manner, but hope I commit no great crime ; my designs are governed by my sincere affection, and I refer all to the will of heaven, which knows my motives, and I hope will prosper my views : But, no more of this, at present : Only let me repeat, that I have no fault to find with thee, and if things fall not out as I intend, I am sure it will never be chargable either upon thy ingratitude or want of affection.” — Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd’s eyes were now opened ; they sighed at the reflection that
their

their friend, by indulging too far his present views, might be contracting the designs of providence, and, in the end, thereby produced unhappiness to himself and those he most valued. They loved Lucy extremely; but had long feared she was not an eligible companion for their young friend, who was still more peculiarly, from his situation and circumstances, the object of their hopes and cares.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVI.

*Which contains matters necessary to be known,
for the better understanding of what fol-
lows.*

THUS affairs were, at present, situated; every day communicated new satisfaction to the knot of sincere friends, in the actions and behaviour of the Orphan, but it was discovered, to the still greater mortification of Mr. Goldsmith, that tho' he put on an air of the greatest respect for Lucy; yet she appeared less and less the object of his peculiar affection: Nor did that young lady, so much as before their late jaunts, seem to confine her desires to his company, often wishing and petitioning for another journey of pleasure. In fact, the bringing them up together in all the familiarity of brother and sister, had been the error which, as well as difference of temper, was likely to render Mr. Goldsmith's scheme abortive. Had they been bred at a distance from each other, and never met, till the time of life when the softer passions begin to stir the soul, and nature herself dictates the union of the two

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sexes,

sexes, admiration of each other would have seconded her purposes; but they had been so mutually familiar, as relations in the neatest consanguinity, as left nothing new to be observed, or to excite desire; nothing but what they had in common with the rest of their species. It had fared in some respects, with them, as it does with the puny, sickly husband, who fancying his wife an angel before enjoyment, and finding her but a mere woman afterwards, is palled and disgusted; for he has idly made external beauty only the motive of his choice, which should have been directed by quite different considerations. Nature herself implants an abhorrence of a matrimonial connection with near relations, who have lived in a state of constant intercourse with each other; the affection produced thereby is quite different from the passion of love. A fine woman, to be sure, according to the rules of judging, barring difference of skin and complexion, is a fine woman every where. Symmetry and harmony of shape and features, delicacy of form and manner, will always be the standard of beauty; but the surprise that engenders love is never excited where the object is ever in sight. An exquisite painting by
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the masterly hands of Raphael or a Rubens, would disgust if always held before us, and if made the toy or the plaything, or the task of a youth to dwell perpetually upon, would be as little relished as their bibles, which is, absurdly, generally the first book they look into at school. In fact, Billy, spite of himself, tho' he still loved Lucy as a sister, began to disrelish her as a future spouse; and Lucy's head ran upon grandeur and titles; she was flattered with the idea of having the epithet *Lady* added to her name, and as she had been so assiduously entertained by Sir Hugh Owen, at the assembly, made no doubt of having him or a man of still greater rank, for an husband. All this, in her gay and thoughtless way, she signified to the Orphan, which, tho' he reproved her for, he was not a little pleased with, hoping she herself would bring that to pass, which he thought it ingratitude in himself even to wish, had she appeared ever so indifferent to him: He had never once lost the idea of Miss Thomas; she appeared to his imagination in all her personal and mental charms, and that imagination had heightened them to the utmost pitch of perfection; but so great was his regard to the peace

of the man who had saved and nurtured him, so sincere his affection, that he always strove to stifle these thoughts in their birth, and studiously called Lucy to mind, and dwelt upon her beauties: still however the striking difference recurred, whatever he did to prevent it. His mind did ample justice to her person, but the minds of Lucy and Miss Thomas would bear no comparison; one governed by sickly whim and humour, the other by reason, religion, and philosophy, capable of imparting every happiness to its kindred mind by love and friendship, and to make life truly valuable and happy: In short, Billy had a greater propensity to the pleasures of the understanding than those of senses; an understanding like Miss Thomas's, adorned with so bewitching a person, could not fail of having its full effects. He had, however, difficulties to struggle with, had he been sure of a return from that lady which it was almost impossible to surmount. Without being in the least tainted with vanity, he set a due value upon himself; but he thought all the virtues in the world would little avail him in his suit, in his present condition; an unfortunate orphan, dependant upon the will of another, who, tho' a man of good understanding,

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ing, and the acuteſt ſenſibility, he had ſeen ſad and diſordered, with the leaſt appearance of contradiction to his plan in his favour. This man he alſo loved even more than a father and a friend, and would have ſooner died an hundred deaths than diſoblige, as he looked upon it, it would betray the moſt barbarous and unnatural return for his invaluable favours; nay, in a ſubordinate degree, he would have thought it impiety itſelf; nor could be certain that by acting counter to his will he ſhould not alſo alienate his other good friends from him. Then, as to Miſs Thomas, a lady of her rank and fortune, was what he could never, he thought, aſpire at the poſſeſſion of, even had he been the real ſon of Mr. Goldſmith; little encouragement had he, therefore, in his preſent condition: In truth, there were ſo many impoſſibilities, almoſt, to damp his riſing flame, that he nobly reſolved, if poſſible, to baniſh it from his breaſt; and by a vigorous exertion of his powers to divert his mind entirely from the delightful object. Vain attempt!—As to Lucy, as before obſerved, her little head was all afloat and full of vanity; ſhe behaved as uſual to Billy; but had he been propoſed as an huſband to her, would have roundly and flatly reſuſed the offer.

Thus two years more passed away, without any accident that could further discompose the family, save that Sir Hugh Owen, who was really smitten with Lucy, had, now and then, visited them, and expressed a peculiar respect for that young lady; but had as yet gone no farther; for supposing her to be Mr. Lloyd's niece, he had inquired particularly of him about her, and being informed by that gentleman and his Lady, that there were other designs in her favour, and having never yet been able to see her alone, he had suppressed all this while his passion, seemingly satisfied that he had the liberty of gazing upon her, and that he was received in a friendly manner by Mr. Goldsmith and his family.

As to Sir Trevor and his daughter, they had not been able to put their designs of visiting the neighbourhood of St. Imael into execution, even once, since the parting at Llanelly; for that gentleman, about a fortnight after, was attacked by the gout, which, with long fits and short intervals, continued to the present time, and Miss Sukey could by no means leave him; and, as to Mr Goldsmith, though he inquired very friendly after them, he had reasons neither to go to Ithin Duon himself

self or to put his son upon the visit, fearing inquiries, proposals, or somewhat of that kind; as he feared Mr. Lloyd, who had called there, had been founded on that head, or that another interview would tend to unhinge Billy from what he imagined he was at all events resolved upon, that is to say, an union with Lucy; and, philosopher and man of discernment as he was, he still thought that union practicable and expedient. However, Miss Thomas had not been able to banish the pleasing remembrance of the orphan from her mind; she had dwelt upon it, till it was even converted into an uneasiness, as she could not again behold the desirable object: She often turned the discourse to him, with her father, and wished for his recovery, that she might be able to go to St. Ismael; from whence Sir Hugh brought her frequent intelligence, praising Billy to the skies, and protesting he thought himself highly honoured with his friendship; for indeed, there was somewhat so sincerely upright, in Sir Hugh, as had much attracted the esteem both of Goldsmith and his son and the latter every now and then would inquire, with great respect, after Sir Trevor and his daughter's health, when the former was not present: And these inquiries

inquiries were as punctually reported to them, by Sir Hugh, who had no suspicion of any danger in the communication: But even these distant and faint intercourses served to keep alive the passion which had inspired them; tho' they neither of them were aware, at present, that the flame was so well kindled as required only communication with each other to oppose every thing that abstracted its progress.

Young Goldsmith, as we may now call him, had become, by this time, the man of business: he carried the corn and the cattle to market, and transacted all Mr. Goldsmith's affairs abroad as well as at home, with a fidelity and address, that served more and more to endear him to that gentleman: By these means he enlarged his knowledge of the world, and became versed in the ways and humours of mankind; yet all his various avocations, and the sight and conversation of the ladies, in several parts of Wales, banished not Miss Thomas from his breast: Her perfections would still recur to his memory, and though he had seen and talked with her only twice, and that in public, he formed comparisons that were always disadvantageous to Lucy and other Ladies. Often he heard her mentioned, in the
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neighbouring towns and villages, in terms that justified his opinion; and, as often, could hear the wish that she might have a husband as valuable as herself, who would make her happy as she made all about her: He heard such instances, also, of her goodness and benevolence, as charmed him in the highest degree, and perhaps still more, from his possessing similar good qualities himself: He even, in his frequent visits at Mr. Lloyd's and Mr. Jenkins's, was profuse in his praises of the amiable lady, and spoke in such earnest terms as not a little surprised them. They could not contradict what was so notorious; but Mr. Jenkins knowing the fond desires of Mr. Goldsmith, would frequently say to him, between jest and earnest, "My dear Billy, don't let the fame of Miss Thomas's virtues steal your heart away; I see you are enamoured of her perfections; but such happiness, was perhaps, never intended for mortals, as an union between thee and her would produce: Behold the common lot of mankind!—Women of the greatest delicacy and sensibility are too often joined to wretches that can scarcely be called human; whom nothing but hereditary or accidental riches have distinguished; whilst a turbulent shrew, as in my case, shall fall
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to the share of a man who is of the most placed, quiet and inoffensive qualities, whose breast abounds in the *milk of human kindness*, which leads him to bear with what is almost past sufferance, not being able at the same time to excuse his quiescence in the words of Socrates, *I have had children by her*. In fact, it appears that providence never intended perfect happiness for us in this life; it is only a state of probation, and our ills here, to wean us from any such prospect. I could wish, indeed, but I can say no more——”

This with the youth too well understood: he sighed and replied, “oh! my friend, I do not ask you to explain yourself—I submit to my fate, without murmuring—may the sacrifice I make be some ratalliation for the great blessings I have received at the hands of my father and friend! To be joined, however, to a woman I know to be of a different disposition to my own; who I know can have no tender sentiments for me, and in whose affection a fop, a feather, a monkey or a lap-dog, may be my rival, is a sacrifice indeed, tho’ she may be adorned with every external beauty of her sex. Excuse me, my dearest friend, I can be free with you, and unburthen my whole soul.

soul. There is such a want of sentiment, even of delicacy, in Miss Lucy, as fills me with an aversion I cannot, though I strive ever so much, to overcome. I love her as a sister, I would even die to promote her happiness ; so strong is my gratitude ; but surely it were better to be cast out again to wretchedness, than to prostitute the noble institution of marriage to such a purpose. I feel myself capable of enjoying that felicitous union, in its supreme elevation ; how then, without counteracting that providence you have taught me to adore ; how, without sinning with my eyes open, can I presume to contract such a match ? I know what you would say, what you would think, if I had any object in my eye whose formation was more eligible than Lucy's : I own she is superior in external charms, to any woman I have yet beheld : But I seek no gross gratifications. With the maxims I have been taught to adhere to, I certainly should be right, could I do it with gratitude, in flying the union, designed for me ; nay I should repay all the sufferings of Miss Lucy, much better by rejecting any such proposal. Tell me ! oh ! tell me, thou guide and director of my youth, how to perform my duty as a rational creature, and

and yet to discharge the debt of gratitude I owe! Indeed I have resolved, as far as human resolution can go, to obey my father; I will take the hand he offers me; but can I marry a person disagreeable to me, without violating a superior duty? Will a forced kind behaviour be any thing more than a deception? Can I become the husband of Lucy, and pronounce the awful words that shall unite us, without telling, without *living a lie*? Dreadful thought! Have I been taught to be upright in all the concerns of life, and shall I be otherwise in that of the greatest importance? No, my very nature recoils at the thought, and honour and religion weigh down duty, which you see kicks the beam."

Mr. Jenkins was not proof against demonstration; he for some moments was silent: He mused, and in a low voice said, "No, it cannot be: shall he *intrepidus altaria tangere*? forbid it heaven!" in a kind of soliloquy; and again, making use of the words of the apostle, "*Not so I have taught, not so have ye believed?*" Then addressing himself to the orphan; "I am an utter enemy to saying any thing that shall differ from our thoughts: You have held an impartial judicatory, my child, and I cannot

cannot contradict you. Leave the matter to me: I will endeavour to do you service: Who should I apply to? Why to the most rational and considerate man on the face of the earth: Yet, I know, a scheme that has been nursed in the fondness of imagination, for so many years, it is difficult to persuade him of the folly of: What can I do?—Why I will perform the part of a faithful and sincere friend, and leave the rest to providence: Mean time, remain as you are, shew no reluctance (but I need not say that) in Lucy's company, I will consult Mrs. Lloyd, and we will form some method to open your father's eyes. I am in no fear of imparting my sentiments to you: Your prudence and your amiable disposition will lead you to make no ungenerous advantages of my concessions: Gracious heaven! teach me to preserve my friend and to assist this excellent youth! But oh! enable me to sacrifice friendship itself, rather than to aid injustice and oppression!"

Mr. Jenkins was as good as his word; the very next day he recapitulated to Mrs. Lloyd and the Squire, all that had passed between the orphan and himself; he even enforced his arguments, and that amiable couple were convinced they were just:

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But they were all at a loss how to proceed in such a delicate point. Mrs. Lloyd at length fell upon the only method that appeared feasible, and in pursuing which they might produce the salutary effects so much wished for, without seeming directly to contradict Mr. Goldsmith in his favourite designs. "Let us," said that amiable lady, "make him a visit to-morrow; let us represent to him that we think Mrs. Jones's punishment complete, and that it is now time to put her daughter into her mother's hands; by which, also, Billy and she, being removed to a distance from each other, his views of the intended union will be still more promoted: They will find an increase of fondness for each other by absence; and besides, he cannot with justice refuse her longer to her parents, and can certainly have no pretence to marry her without their participation. Mrs. Jenkins, you know, has still kept up a correspondence with Mrs. Jones, and has informed her of what passes at St. Ismael: She has set every engine at work, I am sensible, to discover who this gentleman and lady are, and is not thoroughly satisfied they are mine and Mr. Lloyd's relations: She has been further alarmed by having heard the young gentleman is
called

called by her cousin's name, and that he transacts all his affairs. She would, long since, have been down with Mr. Goldsmith for an explanation of these particulars; but her former crimes have impressed so much shame, that she has not dared to venture upon such a visit. By this discovery, every body will be freed from further embarrassment: Mrs. Penry may resume her natural liberty, which has been so much abridged for such a number of years: Mrs. Julian will be eased of her toils, in watching and preserving within proper bounds, a young creature, whose headstrong disposition has caused her no little trouble. He will have the satisfaction, himself, of shewing his affection for Billy, every where and upon all occasions without restraint, and it cannot be supposed that Jones and his wife will refuse the proposed offer of a match between the orphan and their daughter. I say, all these arguments may be used, and, I think, he cannot refute them, without declaring he will indulge his humour at the expence of his justice and good sense, which a man of his rectitude of sentiment can never be supposed willing to do. They are both, now, at years of discretion; should be left more to the exercise of their own judgments,

ments, and we may see how different they think from each other. Lucy is much of a coquette ; that we are sensible of ; she is, or I am mistaken, smitten with the person, or rather with the title of Sir Hugh Owen : That she has a great affection for Billy, I also can discover ; but is the affection of a sister and friend, and nothing farther. Let her be some time with her parents, and you will see, her vanity and their vanity will produce a match with the baronet ; in which case Billy will be left to his own inclinations, and will be quite clear of all charge of ingratitude and want of duty : That being the case, Mr. Goldsmith will be proud of the alliance with Miss Thomas, who, I must insist upon it again and again, is the only lady I have yet seen that is worthy of such a husband, as he, I believe, is the only youth that can deserve the blessing of such a wife. If you approve of my scheme, let us, as I said put it in execution on the morrow : I wish nothing so much as to see our all-accomplished, our excellent youth happy : And in this scheme of happiness, how many individuals will be benefited, when we are no more ; what diffusive benevolence will cheer the hearts of all that know them.

Mr.

Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Jenkins applauded the sagacity and penetration of the good lady, and joined with her in thinking it the only one, and the best expedient that could be devised; they determined to follow it the next morning; and the squire and his lady promised to meet Mr. Jenkins at St. Ismael at ten o'clock, which was Mr. Goldsmith's hour of retiring to his study; and they knew his son would be then absent about business at Brinmult, near Carmarthen, and consequently could not interrupt them.

C H A P. XVII.

Which leads to an affecting discovery.

FULL of their generous design they arrived at Mr. Goldsmith's at the appointed hour, and whilst the two gentlemen, with that familiarity their friendship authorized, ran to the Musæum, Mrs. Lloyd imparted their project to Mrs. Julian and Mrs. Penry, who readily came into it, and thought it the best that could possibly be formed for the purpose intended. She had scarce time to finish before they all three were summoned into the parlour, to which the three gentleman had adjourned. Lucy was, as it happened, paying a visit to a widow lady at Kidwelly; so that Mr. Jenkins, after sitting some minutes silent, in the most prepared manner introduced the discourse they had meditated, tempering it with so much real affection and regard to Mr. Goldsmith, that he seemed to hear him with great patience, nay with some degree of pleasure. When the clergyman had concluded, he made him this reply:

“ My dear friend, I am obliged to you
for

for the kind intentions you manifest in what you say, and I think you have all the reason in the world on your side: It is time, indeed, Lucy were restored to her parents, and that the sufferings of Mrs. Jones should cease. I shall not contradict you; though I could have been rejoiced that a certain affair had first been settled to my satisfaction: However I cannot at present perceive that her restoration to her mother, will render my designs abortive: If she is sincerely repentant, she will be grateful for the blessings I have procured her: Her daughter will return to her embraces equal to her fondest wishes, and with accomplishments which, perhaps, she would have never adorned her with: If (with a sigh) she has any defects, they are derived from nature, not, I am sure, from her education: But where, and in what manner, shall we make this discovery? In my opinion it is best to invite them here, that we may behold at ease the triumph of natural affection. And, again, I think we should not, previously at least, acquaint Lucy with her story and that of my son: It may, perhaps, give her disadvantageous ideas of her parent, which I would by no means promote: It were indeed cruel and highly improper. If her father and mother

ther should ever think it expedient, I should much rather it came from them, than from us. Suppose I send a message to desire their company to dinner the day after to-morrow, which will be Sunday, and that Billy be the messenger, who will discern what effect his appearance has upon her, and in what manner she receives such an uncommon notice, which she will no doubt be greatly surpris'd at, as well as at the messenger; though no doubt she has heard of him and Lucy, since we have made them public. I mean to do every thing for the best, and I am conscious you would advise me to nothing you did not think would have a salutary effect. Mean time, my dear friends, whose goodness and generosity has given you so great an interest in this matter, who have so fond an affection for my son and for Lucy, I invite you to remain with me; indulge me with your society for the intermediate time, since here, so many happy hours we have together beheld their opening worth."

The squire and his lady and Mr. Jenkins assented to his proposal, with pleasure; quite rejoiced to behold their excellent friend so compliable; and it was further proposed by him, that Mrs. Jenkins herself should be sent for, to see the babe of her
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prophecies discovered, and to be brought to confess the folly of her notions if possible.

We shall leave them together in friendly converse, and taking the usual diversions of St. Ismael, and follow the orphan, in his day's journey, which had some very extraordinary consequences.

He had set out from St. Ismael, well mounted, as usual, with intent to buy up a considerable number of horned cattle for the pastures at St. Ismael, in which he had such success, before noon, that he was thinking immediately to return home, without visiting the last place of his commission; but as he had never been at Brinmult before, at length he resolved to indulge himself by riding thither, without considering that minute its vicinity to Ithin Duon, and that it was part of the estate of Sir Trevor Thomas. Had he thought of that circumstance, he would have declined the visit, from those prudential reasons by which he had hitherto governed himself. He rode through the village, and refreshed himself at the grazier's house, which was a stone's throw above it, to whom he had been recommended, if he had been under any necessity to go there, and was returning home-

homewards, when his ears were struck with the plaintive sounds of a female voice, which he perceived issued from a neat little cottage, some hundred paces on his right; and at once resolved, if he could comfort the complainer, to attempt it. His generous bosom beat high with the rapturous thought, that, perhaps, he might ease one human heart from woe; that he might impart assistance to sorrowing necessity; and immediately turning his horse's head towards the spot, walked him gently, willing to steal upon it unperceived, as he might perchance, without the pain of a declaration, discover the particular distress, of the object that had so excited his sensibility. For this purpose, likewise, he directed his course to the back of the cottage, the only door of which opened towards the village. A rustic fence on this side inclosed a small garden-spot, adapted to the cultivation of culinary herbs, plants, and roots; but round the borders the flowery gifts of the season discovered no injudicious hand: Not a weed was to be seen throughout the whole inclosure, and at the upper end, and opposite to the back of the cottage, was an arbour, over which the jessamine and the honeysuckle threw their combined and odoriferous

rous shade, in friendly twines and embraces. The orphan stopped short for some moments, contemplating this pretty scene, which bespoke more the retreat of opulence than the rude indulgence of the laborious swain. Nor did the good condition of the clay daubed edifice itself escape his notice: Here indolence had not suffered a crack or a fissure to remain unrepaired; nor did filthy dirt or rubbish disgrace it on any side. A small rivulet ran close beside it, on the border of which hung, upon posts, the wooden ware of the family, clean and bright as ivory. The complaining sounds had now for some moments ceased, when he heard a man's voice, and could plainly distinguish the following words: "Ah! my Maria, what a mercy, under all our afflictions, that despair has never reached us—it was that patience and pious resignation to the will of providence, that have still secured us from want, that have, I hope, interested heaven in our behalf: Ah! let us no more murmur and complain: Has not the best of human beings found out our melancholy retreat and with generosity unparalleled, afforded relief to our distress, and comforted us in our anguish: If here, soul of my life, I must at length close those eyes, on which

mine

mine eyes have gazed with such constant fondness; if here I must be bereft of all I ever held dear, never will I depart from the mournful spot, till grief for thy loss exhausts the springs of life, and transports me to thee, in those blessed regions where pain and sorrow never dwell, and where, no doubt, our perseverance in virtue will secure us immortal and untainted joys: But let me not anticipate this mournful scene; yet thou mayest recover: Did but our guardian angel, our benefactress know thy danger, the help of physic would not be wanted; but your deliriums harrow up my soul: I dare not leave thee for one moment, in this alarming crisis, even to send, much less can I fly, to a mile's distance from thee. Oh! may heaven, in this dreadful moment, direct some friendly foot this way, whose compassion would engage him to be my messenger."

The Orphan hesitated not a moment to reflect upon what he had heard, but slipping his horse's bridle over the fence, with eager steps surrounded the cottage, and got to the door, at which, being shut, he gave a gentle tap. It was opened by a person seemingly about fifty years of age, of an appearance that belied his present situation: His air was genteel, and his figure com-

commanded respect; though his face wore the marks of the most lively sorrow, and his dress, which had been apparently good, was much decayed. Impressed as he was with his late wish, his anxiety, and the sight of the amiable youth, he seemed in the utmost confusion; but exclaimed, "Gentle stranger, whether of a divine or a human nature, for this opportune visit makes it doubtful to me, oh! step in, and let me tell thee how thou mayest bestow upon me the most invaluable favour: I can perceive by thy benign countenance, thou wilt not refuse thy assistance to the most wretched and distressed of mortals!"

The orphan, struck with this address, by a sudden and involuntary motion, which was dictated by the person and manner of the speaker, grasped both his hands in his, and answered, "Yes, Sir, command me in any thing: Happy am I, that providence directed me this way, at this time, to be of any service to a person, who appears so much to deserve it. Can there be a greater pleasure than to succour unfortunate virtue!" The person he replied to, could make no other rejoinder than by returning his grasp, the tears streaming from his eyes, and, leading him to the side

of a bed where lay a female, who though apparently in a violent paroxysm of a fever, discovered features and a countenance that bespoke, at once, his reverence and respect, cried out, "Oh! my Maria, heaven has sent to our aid another guardian angel! My earnest prayers are heard and answered!" She was not capable of uttering any more words, but turned her eyes towards Goldsmith, with a very emphatical kind of acknowledgment: He, filled with pity and compassion, and addressing the husband as he supposed him to be, asked him how long she had laid thus, and what she had taken. "Alas! Sir, he replied, her disorder suddenly attacked her but yesterday, in the morning; though it has gone to such an height: and she has been ever since so dangerously bad that I could not leave her a moment even to procure her attendance:" "Say no more, Sir," the youth rejoined; I will not be gone ten minutes, before I return with all you want:" So saying, he flew to his horse, and rode as fleetly as possible to the house he had lately left; procured a kind of surgeon that bled, &c. at Brinnult, some wine, and other proper necessaries, and the grazier's maid-servant; and returned in less

less than an hour to the cottage, where the manner of his reception, was still more touching than before: By his advice the operator took some blood from her arm, and finding her violently hot and thirsty, he himself, recollecting Dr. Dover's practice, made her a cool tankard, which she drank off at a draught; and the immediate effect was, that she opened her eyes, seized the youth and her husband by the hand, to let them know she was sensible; and in a few minutes a profuse sweat succeeded: which bid fair to produce the most happy consequences. It was now towards evening, and our youth knowing his father would, as usual, anxiously wait his return, begged the husband, with whose grateful behaviour he was more and more taken to step with him into the garden, where he put some gold into his hand, excused himself from staying longer at present, and promised to be with them next day, with better assistance, if necessary; and not suffering him to reply, again entered the cottage, ordered the female attendant to remain with them, and, rewarding the surgeon, mounted his horse, and rode homewards; happy that he had met with such
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an opportunity of being serviceable to his fellow-creature, ~~and~~ contemplating the strangeness of his adventure, and the uncommon appearance of the persons he had relieved.

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